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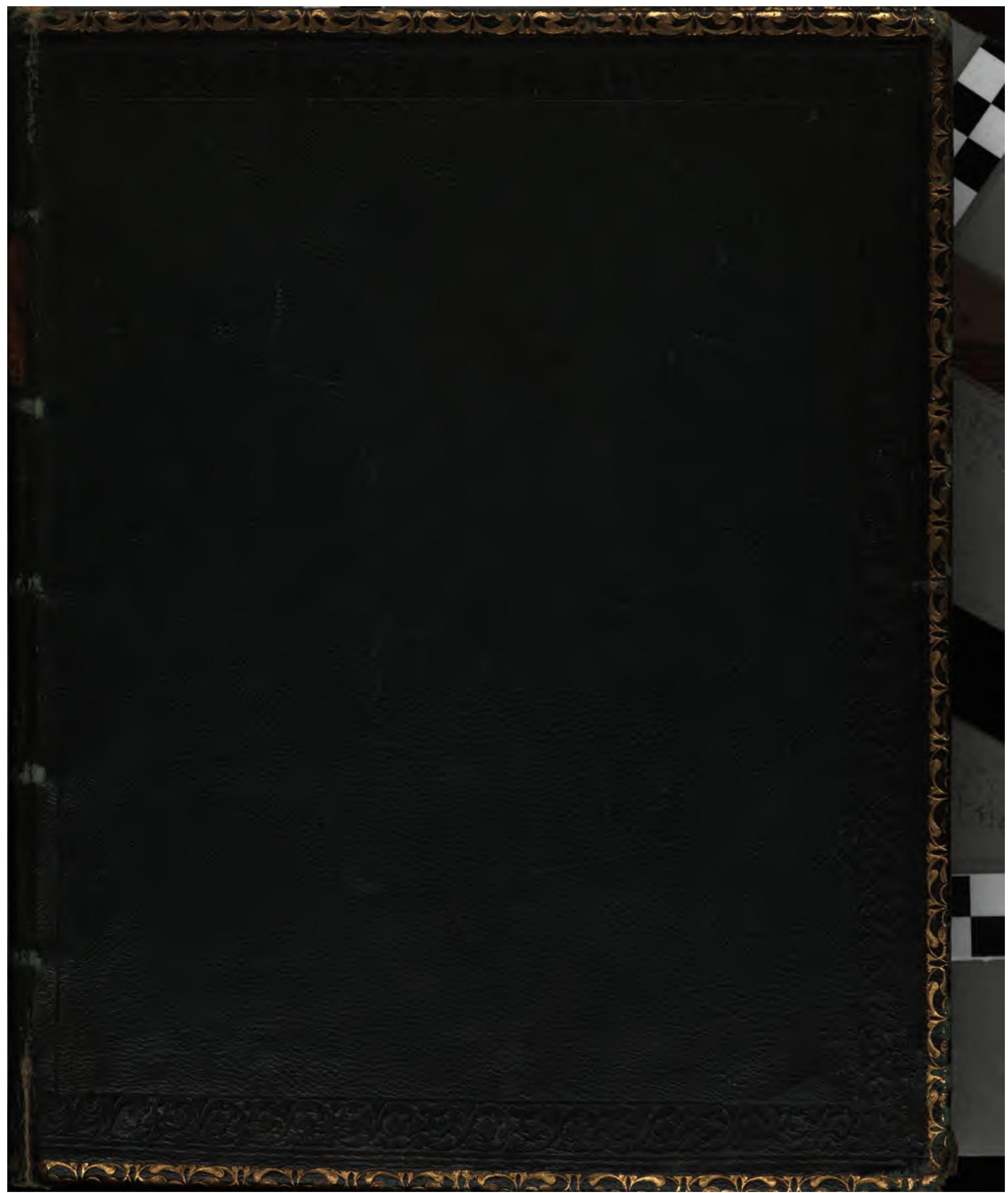
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THE
SEASONS.

BY

Mr. THOMSON.



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The subject propos'd. Inscribed to Lady HARTFORD. This Season is described as it affects the various parts of Nature, ascending from the lower to the higher ; and mixed with Digressions arising from the subject. Its influence on inanimate Matter, on Vegetables, on brute Animals, and last on Man ; concluding with a Diffusive from the wild and irregular passion of love, opposed to that of a purer and more reasonable kind.





W. Kent inv et del.

H. Tardieu Sculps.



S P R I N G.

OME, gentle SPRING, AETHERAL MILDNESS, come;
And from the bosom of yon dropping cloud,
While music wakes around, veil'd in a shower
Of shadowing roses, on our plains descend.

O HERTFORD, fitted, or to shine in courts,
With unaffected grace; or walk the plain,
With INNOCENCE and MEDITATION join'd
In soft assemblage, listen to my song,
That thy own season paints; when NATURE all
Is blooming, and benevolent like thee.

AND see where surly WINTER passes off,
 Far to the north, and calls his ruffian blasts ;
 His blasts obey, and quit the howling hill,
 The shatter'd forest, and the ravag'd vale :
 While softer gales succeed, at whose kind touch,
 Dissolving snows in livid torrents lost,
 The mountains lift their green heads to the sky.

15

As yet the trembling year is unconfirm'd,
 And WINTER oft at eve resumes the breeze,
 Chills the pale morn, and bids his driving sleets
 Deform the day delightless ; so that scarce
 The Bittern knows his time, with bill ingulph't
 To shake the sounding marsh ; or from the shore
 The Plovers theirs, to scatter o'er the heath,
 And sing their wild notes to the listening waste.

20

25

AT last from ARIES rolls the bounteous sun,
 And the bright BULL receives him. Then no more
 Th' expansive atmosphere is cramp'd with cold,

But

S P R I N G.

3

But full of life, and vivifying soul,
Lifts the light clouds sublime, and spreads them thin, 30
Fleecy, and white, o'er all-surrounding heaven.

FORTH fly the tepid airs; and unconfin'd,
Unbinding earth, the moving softness strays.
Joyous th' impatient husbandman perceives
Relenting nature, and his lusty steers, 35
Drives from their stalls, to where the well-us'd plow
Lies in the furrow loosen'd from the frost.
There, unrefusing to the harness'd yoke,
They lend their shoulder, and begin their toil,
Chear'd by the simple song, and soaring lark. 40
Meanwhile incumbent o'er the shining share
The master leans, removes th' obstructing clay,
Winds the whole work, and sidelong lays the glebe.

WHITE thro' the neighbouring fields the sower stalks,
With measur'd step, and liberal throws the grain 45
Into the faithful bosom of the Ground.
The harrow follows harsh, and shuts the scene.

B E gracious, H E A V E N ! for now laborious man

Has done his due. Ye fostering breezes, blow !

Ye softening dews, ye tender showers, descend !

50

And temper all, thou world-reviving sun,

Into the perfect year ! Nor, ye who live

In luxury and ease, in pomp and pride,

Think these lost themes unworthy of your ear.

'Twas such as these the rural M A R O sung

55

To the full R O M A N court, in all its height

Of elegance and taste. The sacred plow

Employ'd the kings and fathers of mankind,

In antient times. And some; with whom compar'd

You're but the beings of a summer's day,

60

Have held the scale of justice, shook the lance

Of mighty war, then with descending hand;

Unus'd to little delicacies, seiz'd

The plow, and greatly independant liv'd.

Y E generous B R I T O N S, cultivate the plow !

65

And o'er your hills, and long withdrawing vales,

Let

S P R I N G.

¶

Let AUTUMN spread his treasures to the sun,
Luxuriant, and unbounded. As the sea,
Far thro' his azure, turbulent extent,
Your empire owns, and from a thousand shores
Wafts all the pomp of life into your ports ;
So with superior boon may your rich soil,
Exuberant, nature's better blessings pour
O'er every land, the naked nations cloath,
And be th' exhaustless granary of a world.

70

75

NOR thro' the lenient air alone, this change
Delicious breathes ; the penetrative sun,
His force deep-darting to the dark retreat
Of vegetation, sets the steaming power.
At large, to wander o'er the vernant earth
In various hues, but chiefly thee, gay GREEN !
Thou smiling NATURE's universal robe !
United light and shade ! where the sight dwells
With growing strength, and ever-new delight !

80

FROM

From the moist meadow to the brown-brow'd hill, 85

Led by the breeze, the vivid verdure runs,
And swells, and deepens to the cherish'd eye.

The hawthorn whitens ; and the juicy groves
Put forth their buds, unfolding by degrees,
Till the whole leafy forest stands display'd,

In full luxuriance, to the sighing gales ;
While the deer rustle thro' the twining brake,
And the birds sing conceal'd. At once array'd
In all the colours of the flushing year,

By NATURE's swift and secret-working hand, 95

The garden glows, and fills the liberal air
With lavish fragrance ; while the promis'd fruit
Lies yet a little embryo, unperceiv'd,

Within its crimson folds. Now from the town
Buried in smoak, and sleep, and noisom damps,

Oft let me wander o'er the dewy fields,
Where freshness breathes, and dash the lucid drops
From the bent bush, as thro' the fuming maze
Of sweet-briar hedges I pursue my walk ;

Or

Or taste the smell of dairy ; or ascend
Some eminence, A U G U S T A, in thy plains,
And see the country far-diffus'd around
One boundless blush, one white-empurpled shower
Of mingled blossoms ; where the raptur'd eye
Travels from joy to joy, and, hid beneath
The fair profusion, yellow A U T U M N spies.

105

110

115

I F brush'd from R U S S I A N wilds a cutting gale
Rise not, and scatter from his foggy wings
The bitter mildew, or dry-blowing breathe
Untimely frost ; before whose baleful blast,
The full-blown S P R I N G thro' all her foliage shrinks,
Into a smutty, wide-dejected waste.
For oft engender'd by the hazy north,
Myriads on myriads, insect-armies waft
Keen in the poison'd breeze ; and wasteful eat
Thro' buds, and bark, into the blacken'd Core,
Their eager way. A feeble race ! scarce seen,
Save by the prying eye ; yet famine waits
On their corrosive course, and kills the year.

120

Sometimes

Sometimes o'er cities as they steer their flight,
Where rising vapour melts their wings away,
Gaz'd by th' astonish'd crowd, the horrid shower
Descends. And hence the skilful farmer chaff,
And blazing straw before his orchard burns;
Till, all involv'd in smoak, the latent foe
From every cranny suffocated falls ;
Or onions, steaming hot, beneath his trees
Exposes, fatal to the frosty tribe :
Nor, from their friendly task, the busy bill
Of little trooping birds instinctive scares.

125

130

135

THESE are not idle philosophic dreams,
Full NATURE swarms with life. Th' unfaithful fen
In putrid steams emits the livid cloud
Of pestilence. Thro' subterranean cells,
Where searching sun-beams never found a way,
Earth animated heaves. The flowery leaf
Wants not its soft inhabitants. The stone,
Hard as it is, in every winding pore
Holds multitudes. But chief the forest-boughs,

140
Which

Which dance unnumber'd to th' inspiring breeze,

145

The downy orchard, and the melting pulp

Of mellow fruit the nameless nations feed

Of evanescent insects. Where the pool

Stands mantled o'er with green, invisible,

Amid the floating verdure millions stray.

150

Each liquid too, whether of acid taste,

Potent, or mild, with various forms abounds.

Nor is the lucid stream, nor the pure air,

Tho' one transparent vacancy they seem,

Devoid of theirs. Even animals subsist

155

On animals, in infinite descent ;

And all so fine adjusted, that the loss

Of the least species would disturb the whole.

Stranger than this th' inspective glass confirms,

And to the curious gives th' amazing scenes

160

Of lessening life ; by WISDOM kindly hid

From eye, and ear of man : for if at once

The worlds in worlds enclos'd were push'd to light,

Seen by his sharpen'd eye, and by his ear

Intensely bended heard, from the choice cage,

165

The freshest viands, and the brightest wines,
He'd turn abhorrent, and in dead of night,
When silence sleeps o'er all, be stun'd with noise.

THE North-east spends his rage, and now shut up
Within his iron caves, th' effusive South

170

Warms the wide air, and o'er the void of heaven
Breathes the big clouds with vernal showers distent.

At first a dusky wreath they seem to rise,
Scarce staining æther ; but by fast degrees,

In heaps on heaps, the doubling vapour sails
Along the loaded sky, and mingling thick.
Sits on th' horizon round a settled gloom.

175

Not such as wintry storms on mortals shed,
Oppressing life, but lovely, gentle, kind,
And full of every hope, and every joy,

280

The wish of Nature. Gradual sinks the breeze
Into a perfect calm ; that not a breath
Is heard to quiver thro' the closing woods,
Or rustling turn the many-twinkling leaves
Of aspin tall. Th' uncurling floods, diffus'd

185

In

In glassy breadth, seem thro' delusive lapse
Forgetful of their course. 'Tis silence all,
And pleasing expectation. Herds and flocks
Drop the dry sprig, and mute-imploring eye
The falling verdure. Hush'd in short suspense, 190
The plamy people streak their wings with oil,
And wait th' approaching sign to strike at once
Into the general choir. Even mountains, vales,
And forests seem, expansive, to demand
The promis'd sweetnes. Man superior walks 195
Amid the glad creation, musing praise,
And looking lively gratitude. At last
The clouds consign their treasures to the fields,
And, softly shaking on the dimply pool
Prelusive drops, let all their moisture flow, 200
In large effusion o'er the freshen'd world.
'Tis scarce to patter heard, the stealing shower,
By such as wander thro' the forest-walks,
Beneath th' umbrageous multitude of leaves.
But who can hold the shade, while HEAVEN descends, 205
In universal bounty, shedding herbs,

And

And fruits, and flowers, on NATURE's ample lap ?
 Imagination fir'd prevents their growth,
 And while the verdant nutriment distills,
 Beholds the kindling country colour round.

210

Thus all day long the full-distended clouds
 Indulge their genial stores, and well-shower'd earth
 Is deep enrich'd with vegetable life ;
 Till, in the western sky, the downward sun
 Looks out illustrious from amid the flush
 Of broken clouds, gay-shifting to his beam.
 The rapid radiance instantaneous strikes
 Th' illumin'd mountain, thro' the forest streams,
 Shakes on the floods, and in a yellow mist,
 Far-smoaking o'er th' interminable plain,
 In twinkling myriads lights the dewy gems.
 Moist, bright, and green, the landskip laughs around.
 Full swell the woods ; their every musick wakes,
 Mix'd in wild consort with the warbling brooks
 Increas'd, th' unnumber'd bleatings of the hills,
 The hollow lows responsive from the vales,

215

220

225

Whence

Whence blending all the sweeten'd zephyr springs.

Mean time refracted from yon eastern cloud,

Bestriding earth, the grand æthereal bow

Shoots up immense ! and every hue unfolds,

230

In fair proportion, running from the red,

To where the violet fades into the sky.

Here, mighty NEWTON, the dissolving clouds

Are, as they scatter'd round, thy numerous prism,

Untwisting to the philosophic eye

235

The various twine of light, by thee pursu'd

Thro' the white mingling maze. Not so the swain,

He wondering views the bright enchantment bend,

Delightful, o'er the radiant fields, and runs

To catch the falling glory ; but amaz'd

240

Beholds th' amusive arch before him fly,

Then vanish quite away. Still night succeeds,

A soften'd shade ; and saturated earth

Awaits the morning beam, to give again,

Transmuted soon by Nature's chymistry,

245

The blooming blessings of the former day.

THEN spring the living herbs, profusely wild
 O'er all the deep-green earth, beyond the power
 Of BOTANIST to number up their tribes ;
 Whether he steals along the lonely dale 250
 In silent search ; or thro' the forest, rank
 With what the dull incurious weeds account,
 Bursts his blind way ; or climbs the mountain rock,
 Fir'd by the nodding verdure of its brow.

With such a liberal hand has NATURE flung 255
 Their seeds abroad, blown them about in winds,
 Innumerous mix'd them with the nursing mold,
 The moistening current, and prolific rain,

BUT who their virtues can declare ? Who pierce
 With vision pure into these secret stores 260
 Of life, and health, and joy ? The food of man
 While yet he liv'd in innocence, and told
 A length of golden years, unflesh'd in blood,
 A stranger to the savage arts of life,

Death,

Death, rapine, carnage, surfeit, and disease,
The lord, and not the tyrant of the world. 265

THEN the glad morning wak'd the gladden'd race
Of uncorrupted men, nor blush'd to see
The sluggard sleep beneath her sacred beam.
For their light slumbers gently sum'd away,
And up they rose as vigorous as the sun,
Or to the culture of the willing glebe,
Or to the cheerful tendance of the flock.
Mean time the song went round ; and dance, and sport,
Wisdom, and friendly talk successive stole 275
Their Hours away. While in the rosy vale
Love breath'd his infant sighs, from anguish free,
Replete with bliss, and only wept for joy.
Nor yet injurious act, nor surly deed
Was known among these happy sons of heaven ;
For reason and benevolence were law.
Harmonious Nature too look'd smiling on.
Clean shone the skies, cool'd with eternal gales,
And balmy spirit all. The youthful sun

270

275

280

Shot

Shot his best rays ; and still the gracious clouds
 Drop'd fatness down ; as o'er the swelling mead.
 The herds and flocks commixing play'd secure:
 Which when, emergent from the gloomy wood,
 The glaring lyon saw, his horrid heart
 Was meeken'd, and he join'd his sullen joy.
 For musick held the whole in perfect peace :
 Soft sigh'd the flute ; the tender voice was heard,
 Warbling the joyous heart ; the woodlands round
 Apply'd their quire ; and winds and waters flow'd
 In consonance. Such were these prime of days.

285

290

295

THIS to the POETS gave the golden age ;
 When, as they sung in elevated phrase,
 The sailor-pine had not the nations yet
 In commerce mix'd ; for every country teem'd
 With every thing. Spontaneous harvests wav'd,
 Still in a sea of yellow plenty round.
 The forest was the vineyard, where untaught
 To climb, unprun'd, and wild, the juicy grape
 Burst into floods of wine. The knotted oak

300

Shook

Shook from his boughs the long transparent streams 305

Of honey, creeping thro' the matted grafts.

Th' uncultivated thorn a ruddy shower

Of fruitage shed, on such as sat below,

In blooming ease, and from brown labour free,

Save what the copious gathering, grateful, gave. 310

The rivers foam'd with nectar ; or diffuse,

Silent, and soft, the milky maze devolv'd.

Nor had the spongy, full-expanded fleece,

Yet drunk the TYRIAN die. The stately ram

Shone thro' the mead, in native purple clad, 315

Or milder saffron ; and the dancing lamb

The vivid crimson to the sun disclos'd.

Nothing had power to hurt ; the savage soul,

Yet untransfus'd into the tyger's heart,

Burn'd not his bowels, nor his gamesome paw 320

Drove on the fleecy partners of his play :

While from the flowery brake the serpent roll'd

His fairer spires, and play'd his pointless tongue.

But now whate'er these gaudy fables meant,
 And the white minutes which they shadow'd out, 325
 Are found no more amid those iron times,
 Those dregs of life ! in which the human mind
 Has lost that harmony ineffable,
 Which forms the soul of happiness ; and all
 Is off the poise within ; the passions all 330
 Have burst their bounds ; and reason half extinct,
 Or impotent, or else approving, sees
 The foul disorder. Anger storms at large,
 Without an equal cause ; and fell revenge
 Supports the falling rage. Close envy bites 335
 With venom'd tooth ; while weak, unmanly fear,
 Full of frail fancies, loosens every power.
 Even love itself is bitterness of soul,
 A pleasing anguish pining at the heart.
 Hope sickens with extravagance ; and grief, 340
 Of life impatient, into madness swells ;
 Or in dead silence wastes the weeping hours.
 These, and a thousand mixt emotions more,

From

From ever-changing views of good and ill,
 Form'd infinitely various, vex the mind 345
 With endless storm. Whence, inly-rankling, grows
 The selfish thought, a listless unconcern,
 Cold, and averting from our neighbour's good ;
 Then dark disgust, and malice, winding wiles,
 Sneaking deceit, and coward villany : 350
 At last deep-rooted hatred, lewd reproach,
 Convulsive wrath, and thoughtless fury, quick
 To deeds of vilest aim. Even Nature's self
 Is deem'd, vindictive, to have chang'd her course.

HENCE in old time, they say, a deluge came ; 355
 When the disparting orb of earth, that arch'd
 Th' imprison'd deep around, impetuous rush'd,
 With ruin inconceivable, at once
 Into the gulph, and o'er the highest hills
 Wide-dash'd the waves, in undulation vast : 360
 Till, from the centre to the streaming clouds,
 A shoreless ocean tumbled round the globe.

THE SEASONS since, as hoar TRADITION tells,
 Have kept their constant chace ; the WINTER keen
 Pour'd out his waste of snows ; and SUMMER shot 365
 His pestilential heats : great SPRING before
 Green'd all the year ; and fruits and blossoms blush'd
 In social sweetness on the self-same bough.
 Clear was the temperate air ; an even calm
 Perpetual reign'd, save what the zephyrs bland 370
 Breath'd o'er the blue expanse ; for then nor storms
 Were taught to blow, nor hurricanes to rage ;
 Sound slept the Waters : no sulphureous glooms
 Swell'd in the sky, and sent the lightning forth :
 While sickly damps, and cold autumnal fogs, 375
 Sat not pernicious on the springs of life.
 But now, from clear to cloudy, moist to dry,
 And hot to cold, in restless change revolv'd,
 Our drooping days are dwindled down to nought,
 The fleeting shadow of a winter's sun. 380

AND yet the wholesome herb neglected dies
In lone obscurity, unpriz'd for food ;
Altho' the pure, exhilarating soul
Of nutriment, and health, salubrious breathes,
By HEAVEN infus'd, along its secret tubes.

385

For, with hot ravine fir'd, ensanguin'd man
Is now become the lyon of the plain,
And worse. The wolf, who from the nightly fold
Fierce-drags the bleating prey, ne'er drunk her milk,
Nor wore her warming fleece : nor has the steer,

390

At whose strong chest the deadly tyger hangs,
E'er plow'd for him. They too are temper'd high,
With hunger stung, and wild necessity,
Nor lodges pity in their shaggy breasts.

But MAN, whom NATURE form'd of milder clay,

395

With every kind emotion in his heart,
And taught alone to weep ; while from her lap
She pours ten thousand delicacies, herbs,
And fruits, as numerous as the drops of rain,
And beams that gave them birth : shall he, fair form !

400

Who

Who wears sweet smiles, and looks erect on heaven,
 E'er stoop to mingle with the prowling herd,
 And dip his tongue in blood ? The beast of prey,
 'Tis true, deserves the fate in which he deals.

Him, from the thicket, let the hardy youth
 Provoke, and foaming thro' the awakened woods
 With every nerve pursue. But you, ye flocks,
 What have ye done ? Ye peaceful people, what,
 To merit death ? You, who have given us milk
 In luscious streams, and lent us your own coat

Against the winter's cold ? Whose usefulness
 In living only lies ? And the plain ox,
 That harmless, honest, guileless animal,

In what has he offended ? He, whose toil,
 Patient, and ever-ready, cloaths the land

With all the pomp of harvest ; shall he bleed,
 And wrestling groan beneath the cruel hands
 Even of the clowns he feeds ? And that perhaps
 To swell the riot of the gathering feast,
 Won by his labour ? Thus the feeling heart

Would tenderly suggest : but 'tis enough,

405

410

415

420

In

In this late age, adventurous to have touch'd,
 Light on the numbers of the SAMIAN sage.
 High HEAVEN beside forbids the daring strain,
 Whose wisest will has fix'd us in a state,
 That must not yet to pure perfection rise.

425

But yonder breathing prospect bids the muse
 Throw all her beauty forth, that daubing all
 Will be to what I gaze ; for who can paint
 Like NATURE ? Can IMAGINATION boast,
 Amid his gay creation, hues like hers ?
 And can he mix them with that matchless skill,
 And lay them on so delicately fine,
 And lose them in each other, as appears
 In every bud that blows ? If fancy then
 Unequal fails beneath the lovely task ;
 Ah what shall language do ? Ah where finds words
 Ting'd with so many colours ? And whose power
 To life approaching, may perfume my lays
 With that fine oil, these aromatic gales,
 Which inexhaustive flow continual round ?

430

435

440

Y E T, tho' successless, will the toil delight.

Come then, ye virgins, and ye youths, whose hearts
Have felt the raptures of refining love ;
Oh come, and while the rosy-footed M A Y
Steals blushing on, together let us walk
The morning dews, and gather in their prime
Fresh-blooming flowers, to deck the braided hair,
And the white bosom that improves their sweets.

445

S E E, where the winding vale her lavish stores,
Irriguoüs, spreads. See, how the lilly drinks
The latent rill, scarce oozing thro' the grass
Of growth luxuriant ; or the humid bank
Profusely climbs. Turgent, in every pore
The gummy moisture shines; new lustre lends,
And feeds the spirit that diffusive round
Refreshes all the dale. Long let us walk,
Where the breeze blows from yon extended field
Of blossom'd beans : A R A B I A cannot boast
A fuller gale of joy than, liberal, thence

450

455

460

Breathes

Breathes thro' the sense, and takes the ravish'd soul.

Nor is the meadow worthless of our foot,
Full of fresh verdure, and unnumber'd flowers,
The negligence of NATURE, wide, and wild ;
Where, undisguis'd by mimic ART, she spreads
Unbounded beauty to the boundless eye. 465

'Tis here that their delicious task the bees,
In swarming millions, tend. Around, athwart,
This way, and that, the busy nations fly,
Cling to the bud, and, with inserted tube,
Its soul, its sweetness, and its manna suck. 470

The little chymist thus, all-moving HEAVEN
Has taught : and oft, of bolder wing, he dares
The purple heath, or where the wild-thyme grows,
And yellow loads him with the luscious spoil. 475

At length the finish'd garden to the view
Its vistas opens, and its alleys green.
Snatch'd thro' the verdant maze, the hurried eye
Distracted wanders ; now the bowery walk
Of covert close, where scarce a speck of day 480

Falls on the lengthen'd gloom, protracted darts ;
 Now meets the bending sky, the river now
 Dimpling along, the breezy-ruffled lake,
 The forest running round, the rising spire,
 Th' æthereal mountain, and the distant main.

485

But why so far excursive ? when at hand,
 Along the blushing borders, dewy-bright,
 And in yon mingled wilderness of flowers,
 Fair-handed SPRING unbosoms every grace ;
 Throws out the snow-drop, and the crocus first,
 The daisy, primrose, violet darkly blue,
 Dew-bending cowslips, and of nameless dies
 Anemonies, auriculas a tribe
 Peculiar powder'd with a shining sand,
 Renunculas, and iris many-hued.

490

495

Then comes the tulip-race, where Beauty plays
 Her gayest freaks : from family diffus'd.
 To family, as flies the father-dust;
 The varied colours run ; and while they BREAK
 On the charm'd FLORIST's eye, he curious stands,
 And new-flush'd glories all ecstatic marks.

500

Nor

Nor hyacinths are wanting, nor junquils
 Of potent fragrance, nor narcissus white,
 Nor strip'd carnations, nor enamel'd pinks,
 Nor shower'd from every bush the damask-rose. 505
 Infinite numbers, delicacies, smells,
 With hues on hues expression cannot paint,
 The breath of NATURE, and her endless bloom.

HAIL, MIGHTY BEING ! UNIVERSAL SOUL

Of heaven and earth ! ESSENTIAL PRESENCE, hail ! 510
 To THEE I bend the knee ; to THEE my thoughts
 Continual climb ; who, with a master-hand,
 Hast the great whole into perfection touch'd.
 By THEE, the various vegetative tribes,
 Wrapt in a filmy net, and clad with leaves, 515
 Draw the live æther, and imbibe the dew.
 By THEE dispos'd into cogenial soils,
 Stands each attractive plant, and sucks, and swells
 The juicy tide ; a twining mass of tubes.
 At thy command, the vernal sun awakes 520
 The torpid sap, detruded to the root

By wintry winds, that now, in fluent dance,
And lively fermentation, mounting, spreads
All this innumEROus-colour'd scene of things.

ASCENDING from the vegetable world

525

To higher life, with equal wing ascend,
My panting muse ; and hark, how loud the woods
Invite you forth in all your gayest trim.

Lend me your song, ye nightingales ! oh pour
The mazy-running soul of melody

530

Into my varied verse ! while I deduce,
From the first note the hollow cuckoo sings,
The symphony of SPRING, and touch a theme
Unknown to fame, THE PASSION OF THE GROVES.

J U S T as the spirit of love is sent abroad,

535

Warm thro' the vital air, and on their hearts
Harmonious seizes, the gay troops begin,
In gallant thought, to plume the painted wing ;
And try again the long-forgotten strain,
At first faint-warbled. But no sooner grows

540

The

The soft infusion prevalent, and wide,
 Than, all alive, at once their joy o'erflows
 In musick unconfin'd. Up-springs the lark,
 Shrill-voiced, and loud, the messenger of morn ;
 Ere yet the shadows fly, he mounted sings

545

Amid the dawning clouds, and from their haunts
 Calls up the tuneful nations. Every copse
 Thick-wove, and tree irregular, and bush
 Bending with dewy moisture, o'er the heads
 Of the coy quiristers that lodge within,

550

Are prodigal of harmony. The thrush
 And wood-lark, o'er the kind-contending throng
 Superior heard, run thro' the sweetest length
 Of notes; when listening PHILOMELA deigns
 To let them joy, and purposes, in thought

555

Elate, to make her night excel their day.
 The black-bird whistles from the thorny brake ;
 The mellow bull-finck answers from the grove :
 Nor are the linnets, o'er the flowering furze

Pour'd out profusely, silent. Join'd to these,
 Thousands beside, thick as the covering leaves

560

They

They warble under, or the nitid hues
 That speck them o'er, their modulations mix
 Mellifluous. The jay, the rook, the daw,
 And each harsh pipe, discordant heard alone, 565
 Here aid the consort : while the Stock-dove breathes
 A melancholy murmur thro' the whole.

'Tis love creates their gaiety, and all
 This waste of music is the voice of love ;
 Which even to birds, and beasts, the tender arts 570
 Of pleasing teaches. Hence the glossy kind
 Try every winning way inventive love
 Can dictate, and in fluttering courtship pour
 Their little souls before her. Wide around,
 Respectful, first in airy rings they rove, 575
 Endeavouring by a thousand tricks to catch
 The cunning, conscious, half-averted glance
 Of their regardless charmer. Should she seem
 Softening the least approvance to bestow,
 Their colours burnish, and by hope inspir'd 580
 They brisk advance ; then on a sudden struck

Retire

Retire disorder'd ; then again approach ;
 And throwing out the last efforts of love,
 In fond rotation spread the spotted wing,
 And shiver every feather with desire.

585

CONNUBIAL leagues agreed, to the deep woods
 They haste away, each as their fancy leads,
 Pleasure, or food, or secret safety prompts ;
 That NATURE's great command may be obey'd,
 Nor all the sweet sensations they perceive
 Indulg'd in vain. Some to the holly-hedge
 Nestling repair, and to the thicket some ;
 Some to the rude protection of the thorn
 Resolve to trust their young. The clefted tree
 Offers its kind concealment to a few,
 Their food its insects, and its moss their nests.
 Others apart far in the grassy dale
 Their humble texture weave. But most delight
 In unfrequented glooms, or shaggy banks,
 Steep, and divided by a babbling brook,
 Whose murmurs sooth them all the live-long day,

590

595

600

When

When for a season fix'd. Among the roots
 Of hazel, pendant o'er the plaintive stream,
 They frame the first foundation of their domes,
 Dry sprigs of trees, in artful manner laid, 605
 And bound with clay together. Now 'tis nought
 But hurry hurry thro' the busy air,
 Beat by unnumber'd wings. The swallow sweeps
 The slimy pool, to build his hanging house
 Ingeniously intent. Oft from the back 610
 Of herds and flocks a thousand tugging bills
 Pluck hair, and wool ; and oft, when unobserv'd,
 Steal from the barn the straw ; till soft, and warm,
 Clean, and compleat, their habitation grows.

As thus the patient dam assiduous sits, 615
 Not to be tempted from her tender task,
 Or by sharp hunger, or by smooth delight,
 Tho' the whole loosen'd Spring around her blows,
 Her sympathizing lover takes his stand
 High on th' opponent bank, and ceaseless sings 620
 The tedious time away ; or else supplies
Her

Her place a moment, while she sudden fits
 To pick the scanty meal. Th' appointed time
 With pious toil fulfill'd, the callow young
 Warm'd, and expanded into perfect life,
 Their brittle bondage break, and come to light,
 A helpless family, demanding food
 With constant clamour. Oh what Passions then,
 What melting sentiments of kindly care
 Seize the new parents' hearts? Away they fly
 Affectionate, and undesiring bear
 The most delicious morsel to their young,
 Which equally distributed, again
 The search begins. So pitiful, and poor,
 A gentle pair on providential HEAVEN
 Cast, as they weeping eye their clamant train,
 Check their own appetites, and give them all.

625

630

635

Nor is the courage of the fearful kind,
 Nor is their cunning less, should some rude foot
 Their woody haunts molest; stealthy aside
 Into the centre of a neighbouring bush

640

F

They

They drop, and whirring thence alarm'd, deceive
 The rambling school-boy. Hence around the head
 Of traveller, the white-wing'd plover wheels
 Her sounding flight, and then directly on
 In long excursion skims the level lawn,
 To tempt you from her nest. The wild-duck hence
 O'er the rough moss, and o'er the trackless waste
 The heath-hen flutters, as if hurt, to lead
 The hot pursuing spaniel far astray.

645

650

BE not the muse ashamed, here to bemoan
 Her brothers of the grove, by tyrant man
 Inhuman caught, and in the narrow cage
 From liberty confin'd, and boundless air.
 Dull are the pretty slaves, their plumage dull,
 Ragged, and all its brightening lustre lost ;
 Nor is that luscious wildness in their notes
 That warbles from the beech. Oh then desist,
 Ye friends of harmony ! this barbarous art
 Forbear, if innocence and musick can
 Win on your hearts, or piety persuade.

655

660

BUT let not chief the nightingale lament
 Her ruin'd care, too delicately fram'd
 To brook the harsh confinement of the cage.
 Oft when returning with her loaded bill,
 Th' astonish'd mother finds a vacant nest,
 By the hard hand of unrelenting clowns
 Robb'd, to the ground the vain provision falls ;
 Her pinions ruffle, and low-drooping scarce
 Can bear the mourner to the poplar shade ;
 Where, all abandon'd to despair, she sings
 Her sorrows thro' the night ; and, on the bough
 Sad-sitting, still at every dying fall
 Takes up again her lamentable strain
 Of winding woe, till wide around the woods
 Sigh at her song, and with her wail resound.

665

670

675

AND now the feather'd youth their former bounds
 Ardent disdain, and weighing oft their wings,
 Demand the free possession of the sky.
 But this glad office more, and then dissolves
 Parental love at once ; for needless grown,

680

Unlavish WISDOM never works in vain.

'Tis on some evening, sunny, grateful, mild,
When nought but balm is breathing thro' the woods,
With yellow lustre bright, that the new tribes

685

Visit the spacious heavens, and look abroad
On NATURE's common, far as they can see,
Or wing, their range, and pasture. O'er the boughs
Dancing about, still at the giddy verge
Their resolution fails; their pinions still,

690

In loose libration stretch'd, the void abrupt
Trembling refuse: till down before them fly
The parent-guides, and chide, exhort, command,
Or push them off. The surging air receives

The plamy burden; and their self-taught wings

695

Winnow the waving element. On ground
Alighted, bolder up again they lead

Farther and farther on the lengthning flight;
Till vanish'd every fear, and every power
Rouz'd into life, and action, in the void

700

Th' exoner'd parents see their soaring race,
And once rejoicing, never know them more.

HIGH from the summit of a craggy cliff,
 Hung o'er the green sea, grudging at its base,
 The royal eagle draws his young, resolv'd
 To try them at the sun. Strong-pounc'd, and bright
 As burnish'd day, they up the blue sky wind,
 Leaving dull sight below, and with fixt gaze
 Drink in their native noon : the father-king
 Claps his glad pinions, and approves the birth. 705

710

AND should I wander to the rural seat,
 Whose aged oaks, and venerable gloom,
 Invite the noisy rook ; with pleasure there,
 I might the various polity survey
 Of the mixt household kind. The careful hen 715
 Calls all her chirping family around,
 Fed, and defended by the fearless cock,
 Whose breast with ardour flames, as on he walks
 Graceful, and crows defiance. In the pond,
 The finely-checker'd duck, before her train,
 Rows garrulous. The stately-sailing swan
 Gives out his snowy plumage to the gale, 720

And,

And, arching proud his neck, with oary feet
 Bears forward fierce, and beats you from the bank,
 Protective of his young. The turkey nigh, 725
 Loud-threatening, reddens; while the peacock spreads
 His every-colour'd glory to the sun,
 And swims in floating majesty along.
 O'er the whole homely scene, the cooing dove
 Flies thick in amorous chace, and wanton rolls 730
 The glancing eye, and turns the changeful neck.

WHILE thus the gentle tenants of the shade
 Indulge their purer loves, the rougher world
 Of brutes below, rush furious into flame,
 And fierce desire. Thro' all his lusty veins 735
 The bull, deep-scorcht, receives the raging fire.
 Of pasture sick, and negligent of food,
 Scarce-seen, he wades among the yellow broom,
 While o'er his brawny back the rambling sprays
 Luxuriant shoot; or thro' the mazy wood 740
 Dejected wanders, nor th' enticing bud
 Crops, tho' it presses on his careless sense:

For,

For, wrapt in mad imagination, he
 Roars for the fight, and idly bunting, feigns
 A rival gor'd in every knotty trunk. 743

Such should he meet, the bellowing war begins ;
 Their eyes flash fury ; to the hollow'd earth,
 Whence the sand flies, they mutter bloody deeds,
 And groaning vast th' impetuous battle mix :
 While the fair heifer, redolent, in view 750

Stands kindling up their rage. The trembling steed,
 With this hot impulse seiz'd in every nerve,
 Nor hears the rein, nor heeds the sounding whip ;
 Blows are not felt ; but tossing high his head,
 And by the well-known joy, to distant plains 755

Attracted strong, all wild, he bursts away ;
 O'er rocks, and woods, and craggy mountains flies,
 And neighing, on the aerial summit takes
 Th' informing gale ; then steep-descending, cleaves
 The headlong torrents foaming down the hills, 760

Even where the madness of the straiten'd streams
 Turns in black eddies round : Such is the force
 With which his frantick heart, and sinews swell.

Nor,

NOR, undelighted by the boundless SPRING,
 Are the broad monsters of the boiling deep : 765
 From the deep ooze, and gelid cavern rous'd,
 They flounce, and tumble in unwieldy joy.
 Dire were the strain, and dissonant, to sing
 The cruel raptures of the savage kind :
 How the red lioness, her whelps forgot 770
 Amid the thoughtless fury of her heart ;
 The lank rapacious wolf; th' unshapely bear ;
 The spotted tyger, fellest of the fell ;
 And all the terrors of the LIBYAN swain,
 By this new flame their native wrath sublim'd, 775
 Roam the resounding waste in fiercer bands,
 And growl their horrid loves. But this the theme
 I sing, transported, to the BRITISH fair,
 Forbids, and leads me to the mountain-brow,
 Where sits the shepherd on the grassy turf, 780
 Inhaling, healthful, the descending sun.
 Around him feeds his many-bleating flock,
 Of various cadence ; and his sportive lambs,
 This way, and that, convolv'd in briskful glee,

Their

S P R I N G.

41

Their little frolics play. And now the race
Invites them forth ; when swift, the signal given,
They start away, and sweep the massy mound
That runs around the hill ; the rampart once
Of iron war, in antient barbarous times,
When disunited BRITAIN ever bled,
Lost in eternal broil ; ere yet she grew
To this deep-laid, indissoluble state,
Where WEALTH and COMMERCE lift their gold
And o'er our Labours, LIBERTY and LAW
Illustrious watch, the wonder of a world !

785

790

795

WHAT is this MIGHTY BREATH, ye curious, say,
Which, in a language rather felt than heard,
Instructs the fowls of heaven ; and thro' their breasts
These arts of love diffuses ? What, but GOD ?
Inspiring GOD ! who boundless spirit all,
And unremitting energy, pervades,
Adjusts, sustains, and agitates the whole.
He ceaseless works alone, and yet alone
Seems not to work, with such perfection fram'd

2

G

Is

Is this complex, amazing scheme of things.
 But tho' conceal'd, to every purer eye
 Th' informing author in his works appears ;
 His grandeur in the heavens : the sun, and moon,
 Whether that fires the day, or falling, this
 Pours out a lucid softness o'er the night,
 Are but a beam from him. The glittering stars,
 By the deep ear of meditation heard,
 Still in their midnight watches sing of him.
 He nods a calm. The tempest blows his wrath,
 Roots up the forest, and o'erturns the main.
 The thunder is his voice ; and the red flash
 His speedy sword of justice. At his touch
 The mountains flame. He takes the solid earth,
 And rocks the nations. Nor in these alone,
 In every common instance GOD is seen ;
 And to the man, who casts his mental eye
 Abroad, unnotic'd wonders rise. But chief
 In thee, boon SPRING, and in thy softer scenes,
 The SMILING GOD appears ; while water, earth,
 And air attest his bounty, which instils

805

810

815

820

825

Into

Into the brutes this temporary thought,
 And annual melts their undesigning hearts
 Profusely thus in tenderness, and joy.

STILL let my song a nobler note assume,
 And sing th' infusive force of SPRING on man ; 830
 When heaven and earth, as if contending, vie
 To raise his being, and serene his soul.
 Can he forbear to smile with NATURE ? Can
 The stormy passions in his bosom rowl,
 While every gale is peace, and every grove 835
 Is melody ? Hence, from the bounteous walks
 Of flowing SPRING, ye sordid sons of earth,
 Hard, and unfeeling, of another's woe,
 Or only lavish to yourselves ; away.

But come, ye generous breasts, in whose wide thought, 840
 Of all his works, CREATIVE BOUNTY, most,
 Divinely burns ; and on your open front,
 And liberal eye, sits, from his dark retreat
 Inviting modest want. Nor only fair,
 And easy of approach ; your active search 845

Leaves no cold wintry corner unexplor'd,
 Like silent-working H E A V E N , surprizing oft
 The lonely heart with unexpected good.
 For you the roving spirit of the wind
 Blows S P R I N G abroad ; for you the teeming clouds 850
 Descend in buxom plenty o'er the world ;
 And the sun spreads his genial blaze for you,
 Ye flower of human race ! In these green days,
 Sad-pining sickness lifts her languid head ;
 Life flows afresh ; and young-ey'd health exhales 855
 The whole creation round. Contentment walks
 The sunny glade, and feels an inward blis
 Spring o'er his mind, beyond the power of kings
 To purchase. Pure serenity apace
 Induces thought, and contemplation still. 860

By small degrees the love of nature works,
 And warms the bosom ; till at last arriv'd
 To rapture, and enthusiastic heat,
 We feel the present D E I T Y , and taste
 The joy of G O D , to see a happy world. 865

'Tis HARMONY, that world-attuning power,
 By which all beings are adjusted, each
 To all around, impelling, and impell'd,
 In endless circulation, that inspires
 This universal smile. Thus the glad skies, 870
 The wide-rejoicing earth, the woods, the streams,
 With every LIFE they hold, down to the flower
 That paints the lowly vale, or insect-wing
 Wav'd o'er the shepherd's slumber, touch the mind
 To nature tun'd, with a light-flying hand, 875
 Invisible; quick-urging, thro' the nerves,
 The glittering spirits in a flood of day.

HENCE from the virgin's cheek, a fresher bloom
 Shoots, less and less, the live carnation round;
 Her lips blush deeper sweets; she breathes of youth; 880
 The shining moisture swells into her eyes,
 In brighter flow; her wishing bosom heaves
 With palpitations wild; kind tumults seize
 Her veins, and all her yielding soul is love.
 From the keen gaze her lover turns away, 885
 Full.

Full of the dear ecstatit power, and sick
 With sighing languishment. Ah then, ye fair !
 Be greatly cautious of your sliding hearts ;
 Dare not th' infectious sigh ; the pleading eye,
 In meek submission dreft, deject, and low,
 But full of tempting guile. Let not the tongue,
 Prompt to deceive, with adulation smooth,
 Gain on your purpos'd wills. Nor in the bower,
 Where woodbines flaunt, and roses shed a couch,
 While evening draws her crimson curtains round,
 Trust your soft minutes with betraying man.

890

895

A N D let th' aspiring youth beware of love,
 Of the smooth glance beware ; for tis too late,
 When on his heart the torrent softness pours.
 Then wisdom prostrate lies ; and fading fame
 Dissolves in air away : while the fond soul
 Is wrapt in dreams of ecstasy, and bliss ;
 Still paints th' illusive form ; the kindling grace ;
 Th' enticing smile ; the modest-seeming eye,
 Beneath whose beauteous beams, belying heaven,

900

905

Lurk

Lurk searchless cunning, cruelty, and death:
And still, false-warbling in his cheated ear,
Her syren voice, enchanting, draws him on,
To guileful shores, and meads of fatal joy.

Even present, in the very lap of love
Inglorious laid ; while musick flows around,
Perfumes, and oils, and wine, and wanton hours,
Amid the roses fierce Repentance rears
Her snaky crest : a quick-returning twinge
Shoots thro' the conscious heart ; where honour still,
And great design against th' oppressive load
Of luxury, by fits, impatient heave.

But absent, what fantastic pangs arrou'd,
Rage in each thought, by restless musing fed,
Chill the warm cheek, and blast the bloom of life ? 920
Neglected fortune flies ; and sliding swift,
Prone into ruin, fall his scorn'd affairs.
'Tis nought but gloom around. The darken'd sun
Loses his light. The rosy bosom'd SPRING

To

To weeping fancy pines; and yon bright arch
Of heaven, low-bends into a dusky vault.

All nature fades extinct; and she alone
Heard, felt, and seen, possesses every thought,
Fills every sense, and pants in every vein.

Books are but formal dulness, tedious Friends,

And sad amid the social band he sits,
Lonely, and inattentive. From the tongue
Th' unfinish'd period falls: while, born away
On swelling thought, his wasted spirit flies
To the vain bosom of his distant fair;

And leaves the semblance of a lover, fix'd
In melancholly site, with head declin'd,

And love-dejected eyes. Sudden he starts,
Shook from his tender trance, and restless runs
To glimmering shades, and sympathetic glooms,

Where the dun umbrage o'er the falling stream
Romantic hangs; there thro' the pensive dusk
Strays, in heart-thrilling meditation lost,
Indulging all to love: or on the bank

Thrown, amid drooping lillies, swells the breeze

915

930

935

940

945

With

With sighs unceasing, and the brook with tears.

Thus in soft anguish he consumes the day,

Nor quits his deep retirement, till the moon

Peeps thro' the chambers of the fleecy east,

Enlighten'd by degrees, and in her train

950

Leads on the gentle hours; then forth he walks,

Beneath the trembling languish of her beams,

With soften'd soul, and woos the bird of eve

To mingle woes with his: or while the world,

And all the sons of care, lie hush'd in sleep,

955

Associates with the midnight shadows drear;

And, sighing to the lonely taper, pours

His idly-tortur'd heart into the page,

Meant for the moving messenger of love;

Where rapture burns on rapture, every line

960

With rising frenzy fir'd. But if on bed

Delirious flung, sleep from his pillow flies.

All night he tosses, nor the balmy power

In any posture finds; till the grey morn

Lifts her pale lustre on the paler wretch,

965

Exanimate by love: and then perhaps

Exhausted nature sinks a while to rest,
 Still interrupted by distracted dreams,
 That o'er the sick imagination rise,
 And in black colours paint the mimic scene. 970

Oft with th' enchantress of his soul he talks ;
 Sometimes in crouds distrest ; or if retir'd
 To secret-winding, flower-enwoven bowers,
 Far from the dull impertinence of man,
 Just as he, credulous, his thousand cares 975

Begins to lose in blind oblivious love,
 Snatch'd from her yielded hand, he knows not how,
 Thro' forests huge, and long untravel'd heaths
 With desolation brown, he wanders waste,
 In night and tempest wrapt ; or shrinks aghast, 980

Back, from the bending precipice ; or wades
 The turbid stream below, and strives to reach
 The farther shore ; where succourless, and sad,
 Wild as a Bacchanal she spreads her arms,
 But strives in vain, borne by th' outragious flood 985

To distance down, he rides the ridgy wave,
 Or whelm'd beneath the boiling eddy sinks.

Then

Then a weak, wailing, lamentable cry
 Is heard, and all in tears he wakes, again
 To tread the circle of revolving woe.

990

These are the charming agonies of love,
 Whose misery delights. But thro' the heart
 Should jealousy its venom once diffuse,
 'Tis then delightful misery no more,
 But agony unmixed, incessant rage,

995

Corroding every thought, and blasting all
 Love's Paradise. Ye fairy prospects then,
 Ye beds of roses, and ye bowers of joy,
 Farewell ! Ye gleamings of departing peace,
 Shine our your last ! The yellow-tinging plague
 Internal vision taints, and in a night
 Of livid gloom imagination wraps.

1000

Ay then instead of love-enliven'd cheeks,
 Of sunny features, and of ardent eyes
 With flowing rapture bright, dark looks succeed,
 Suffus'd, and glaring with untender fire,
 A clouded aspect, and a burning cheek,
 Where the whole poison'd soul, malignant, sits,

1005

And frightens love away. Ten thousand fears,

Invented wild, ten thousand frantic views

1010

Of horrid rivals, hanging on the charms

For which he melts in fondness, eat him up

With fervent anguish, and consuming pine.

In vain reproaches lend their idle aid,

Deceitful pride, and resolution frail,

1015

Giving a moment's ease. Reflection pours,

Afresh, her beauties on his busy thought,

Her first endearments, twining round the soul,

With all the witchcraft of ensnaring love.

Straight the fierce storm involves his mind anew,

1020

Flames thro' the nerves, and boils along the veins ;

While anxious doubt distracts the tortur'd heart ;

For even the sad assurance of his fears

Were peace to what he feels. Thus the warm youth,

Whom love deludes into his thorny wilds,

1025

Thro' flowery-tempting paths, or leads a life

Of feavor'd rapture, or of cruel care ;

His brightest aims extinguish'd all, and all

His lively moments running down to waste.

But happy they ! the happiest of their kind !

1030

Whom gentler stars unite, and in one fate

Their hearts, their fortunes, and their beings blend.

'Tis not the coarser tie of human laws,

Unnatural oft, and foreign to the mind,

That binds their peace, but harmony itself,

1039

Attuning all their passions into love ;

Where friendship full-exerts his softest Power,

Perfect esteem enliven'd by desire

Ineffable, and sympathy of soul,

Thought meeting thought, and will preventing will,

1040

With boundless confidence ; for nought but love

Can answer love, and render bliss secure.

Let him, ungenerous, who, alone intent

To bless himself, from sordid parents buys

The loathing virgin, in eternal care,

1045

Well-merited, consume his nights and days :

Let barbarous nations, whose inhuman love

Is wild desire, fierce as the suns they feel ;

Let eastern tyrants from the light of heaven

Seclude their bosom-slaves, meanly possest

1050

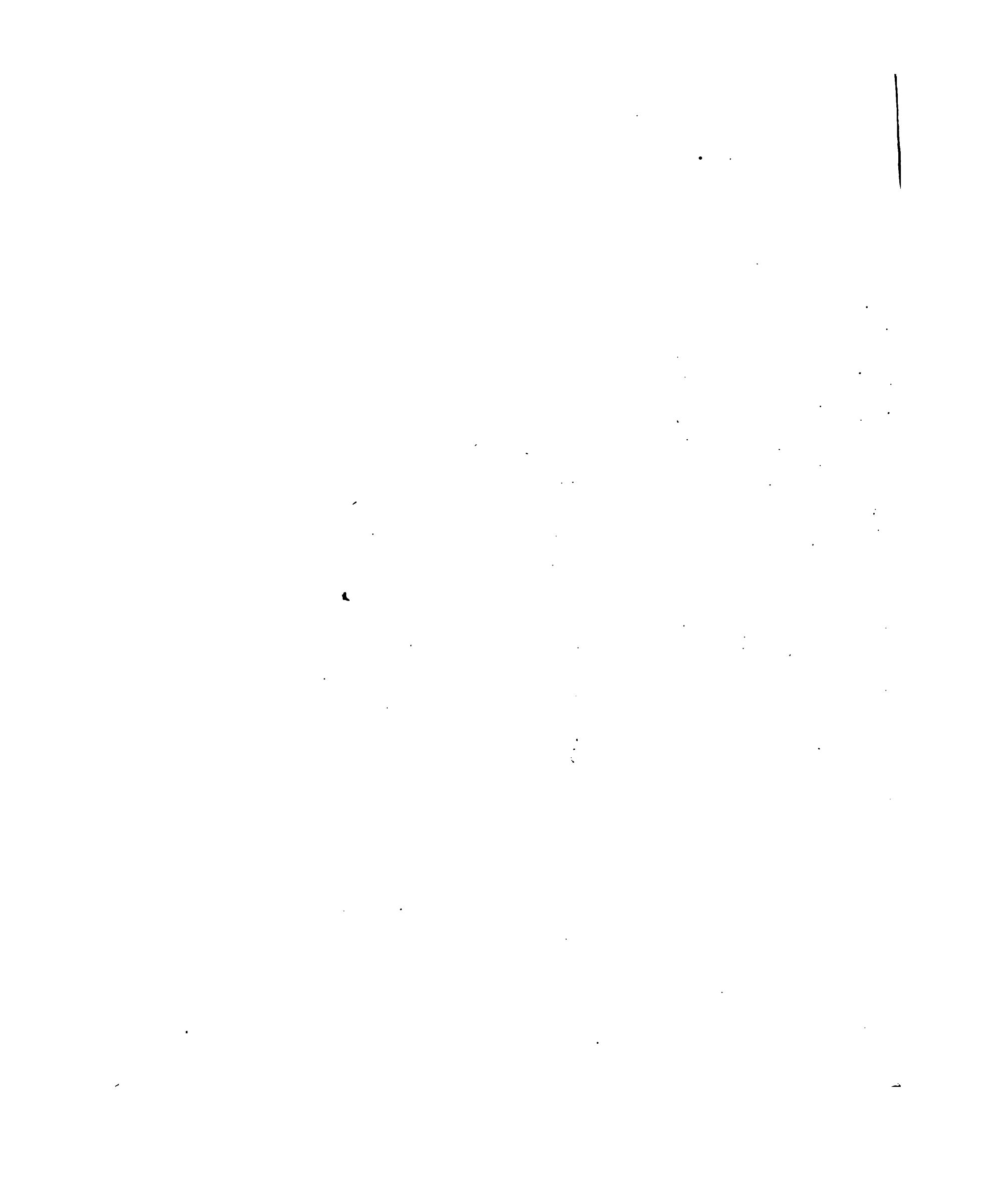
of

- Of a mere, lifeless, violated form :
 While those whom love cements, in holy faith,
 And equal transport, free as nature, live,
 Disdaining fear ; for what's the world to them,
 Its pomp, its pleasure, and its nonsense all ! 1055
- Who in each other clasp whatever fair
 High fancy forms, and lavish hearts can wish,
 Something than beauty dearer, should they look
 Or on the mind, or mind-illumin'd face,
 Truth, goodness, honour, harmony, and love, 1060
 The richest bounty of indulgent H E A V E N.
- Mean-time a smiling Offspring rises round,
 And mingle both their graces. By degrees,
 The human blossom blows ; and every day,
 Soft as it rolls along, shews some new charm, 1065
 The father's lustre and the mother's bloom.
- Then infant reason grows apace, and calls
 For the kind hand of an assiduous care :
 Delightful task ! to rear the tender thought,
 To teach the young idea how to shoot, 1070
 To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,

To
†

To breathe th' inspiring spirit, and to plant
 The generous purpose in the glowing breast.
 Oh speak the joy ! you whom the sudden tear
 Surprizes often, while you look around, 1075
 And nothing strikes your eye but sights of bliss,
 All various nature pressing on the heart,
 Obedient fortune, and approving H E A V E N .
 These are the blessings of diviner love ;
 And thus their moments fly. The seasons thus, 1080
 As ceaseless round a jarring world they roll,
 Still find them happy ; and consenting S P R I N G
 Sheds her own rosy garland on their head :
 Till evening comes at last, cool, gentle, calm ;
 When after the long vernal day of life, 1085
 Enamour'd more, as soul approaches soul,
 Together, down they sink in social sleep.

SUMMER.



S U M M E R.

Inscribed to the RIGHT HONOURABLE

Mr. DODINGTON.

I

The A R G U M E N T.

The subject proposed. Invocation. Address to Mr. DODINGTON.

An introductory reflection on the motion of the heavenly bodies ; whence the succession of the SEASONS. As the face of nature in this season is almost uniform, the progress of the poem is a description of a summer's day. Morning. A view of the sun rising. Hymn to the sun. Forenoon. Rural prospects. Summer insects described. Noon-day. A woodland retreat. A groupe of flocks and herds. A solemn grove. How it affects a contemplative mind. Transition to the prospect of a rich well-cultivated country ; which introduces a panegyric on GREAT BRITAIN. A digression on foreign summers. Storm of thunder and lightning. A tale. The storm over ; a serene afternoon. Bathing. Sun set. Evening. The whole concluding with the Praise of Philosophy.



G U M E N T.

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b the Praise of Philosophy*







W. Kent inv. et del.

H. Saussier scul.



S U M M E R.

ROM yonder fields of æther fair disclos'd,
Child of the Sun ! illustrious SUMMER comes,
In pride of youth, and felt thro' Nature's depth.

He comes, attended by the sultry HOURS,
And ever fanning BREEZES, on his way ; 5
While, from his ardent look, the turning SPRING
Averts her blushing face, and earth, and skies,
All-smiling, to his hot dominion leaves.

HENCE, let me haste into the mid-wood shade,
Where scarce a sun-beam wanders thro' the gloom ; 10

And on the dark-green grass, beside the brink
 Of haunted stream, that by the roots of oak
 Rowls o'er the rocky channel, lie at large,
 And sing the glories of the circling year.

COME, INSPIRATION! from thy hermit seat,

15

By mortal seldom found: may fancy dare,
 From thy fix'd serious muse, and raptur'd eye
 Shot on surrounding heaven, to steal one look,
 Creative of the poet, every power
 Exalting to an ecstasy of soul.

20

AND thou, the muse's honour! and her friend!

In whom the human graces all unite:
 Pure light of mind, and tenderness of heart;
 Genius, and wisdom; the gay social sense,
 By decency chastiz'd; goodness and wit,
 In seldom-meeting harmony combin'd;
 Unblemish'd honour; and an active zeal,
 For BRITAIN's glory, liberty, and man;
 Oh DODINGTON! attend my rural song,

25

Stoop

S U M M E R.

61

Stoop to my theme, inspirit every line,
And teach me to deserve thy ~~BEST~~ applause.

30

With what a perfect, world-revolving power,
Were first th' unwieldy planets launch'd along
Th' illimitable void ! Thus to remain,
Amid the flux of many thousand years,
That oft has swept the busy race of men,
And all their labour'd monuments away,
Unresting, changeless, matchless, in their course ;
To night and day, with the delightful round
Of SEASONS, faithful ; not excentric once :
So pois'd, and perfect is the vast machine.

35

40

WHEN now no more th' alternate TWINS are fir'd,
And CANCER reddens with the solar blaze,
Short is the doubtful empire of the night ;
And soon, observant of approaching Day,
The meek-ey'd Morn appears, mother of dews !
At first faint-gleaming in the dappled east ;
Till far o'er æther shoots the trembling glow ;

45

And,

And, from before the lustre of her face,
 White break the clouds away. With tardy step, 50
 Brown Night retires. Young Day pours in apace,
 And opens all the lawny prospect wide.
 The dripping rock, the mountain's misty top
 Swell on the eye, and brighten with the dawn.
 Blue thro' the dusk, the smoaking currents shine; 55
 And from the bladed field the fearful hare
 Limps awkward; while along the forest glade
 The wild deer trip, and often turning gaze
 At early passenger. Musick awakes,
 The native voice of undissembling joy; 60
 And thick around the woodland hymns arise.
 Rous'd by the cock, the soon-clad shepherd leaves
 His mossy cottage where with P E A C E he dwells;
 And from the crowded fold, in order, drives
 His flock, to taste the verdure of the morn. 65

F A L S L Y luxurious, will not man awake;
 And, starting from the bed of sloth, enjoy
 The cool, the fragrant, and the silent hour,

To

High-gleaming from afar. Prime chearer Light !

Of all material beings first, and best !

90

Efflux divine ! Nature's resplendent robe !

Without whose vesting beauty all were wrapt

In unessential gloom ; and thou, red Sun,

In whose wide circle worlds of radiance lie,

Exhaustless brightness, may I sing of thee !

95

Who would the blessings, first and last, recount,

That in a full effusion from thee flow,

As soon might number at the height of noon,

The rays that radiate from thy cloudless sphere,

A universal glory darting round.

100

'Tis by thy secret, strong, attractive force,

As with a chain, indissoluble, bound,

Thy system rolls entire ; from the far bourn

Of slow-pac'd SATURN, to the scarce-seen disk

Of MERCURY, lost in excessive blaze.

105

INFORMER of the planetary train !

Without whose vital, and effectual glance,
They'd be but brute, uncomfortable mafs,
And not as now the green abodes of life ;

How many forms of being wait on thee !

Inhaling gladness ; from th' unfetter'd mind,
By thee sublim'd, to that day-living race,
The mixing myriads of thy setting beam.

110

THE vegetable world is also thine,
Parent of SEASONS ! from whose rich-stain'd rays,
Reflected various, various colours rise :
The freshening mantle of the youthful year ;
The wild embroidery of the watry vale ;
With all that chears the sense, and charms the heart.

115

THE branching grove thy lusty product stands,
Diffus'd, and deep, to quench the summer noon ;
And crowd a shade for the retreating swain,
When on his ruffet fields you look direct.

120

FRUIT is thy bounty too, with juice replete,
Acid, or mild; and from thy ray receives 125
A flavour pleasing to the taste of man.
By thee concocted blushes; and by thee
Fully matur'd, into the verdant lap
Of INDUSTRY, the mellow plenty falls.

EXTENSIVE harvests wave at thy command, 130
And the bright ear, consolidate by thee,
Bends unwitholding to the reaper's hand.

EVEN WINTER speaks thy power; whose every blast,
O'ercast with tempest, or severely sharp
With breathing frost, is eloquent of thee, 135
And makes us languish for thy vernal gleams:

SHOT to the bowels of the teeming earth,
The ripening oar confesses all thy power.
Hence labour draws his tools; hence waving war
Flames on the day; hence busy commerce binds 140
The round of nations in a golden chain;
And

And hence the sculptur'd palace, sumptuous, shines
With glittering silver, and resplendent gold.

TH' UNFRUITFUL rock itself impregn'd by thee,
In dark retirement, forms the lucid stone, 145
Collected light, compact; that polish'd bright,
And all its native lustre let abroad,
Shines proudly on the bosoms of the fair.

At thee the ruby lights his deepening glow,
A bleeding radiance, grateful to the view. 150
From thee the saphire, solid æther, takes
His hue cerulean; and, of evening tint,
The purple-streaming amethyst is thine.
With thy own smile the yellow topaz burns.
Nor deeper verdure dies the robe of SPRING, 155
When first she gives it to the southern gale,
Than the green emerald shows. But all combin'd,
Thick thro' the whitening opal play thy beams;
Or, flying several from his surface, form

A trembling variance of revolving hues,
As the site varies in the gazer's hand.

160

THE very dead creation, from thy touch,
Assumes a mimic life. By thee refin'd,
In brisker measures, the reluctant stream
Frisks o'er the mead. The precipice abrupt,
Projecting horror on the blacken'd flood,
Softens at thy return. The desert joys
Wildly, thro' all his melancholy bounds.

165

Rude ruins glitter; and the briny deep,
Seen from some pointed promontory's top,
Reflects, from every fluctuating wave,
A glance extensive as the day. But these,
And all the much transported muse can sing,
Are to thy beauty, dignity, and use,
Unequal far, great delegated source,
Of life, and light, and grace, and joy below!

170

175

How shall I then attempt to sing of him,
Who, LIGHT HIMSELF, in uncreated light

Invested

Invested deep, dwells awfully retir'd
 From mortal eye, or angel's purer ken ; 185
 Whose single smile has, from the first of time,
 Fill'd, over-flowing, all those lamps of heaven,
 That beam for ever thro' the boundless sky :
 But should he hide his face, th' astonish'd sun,
 And all th' extinguish'd stars, would loosening reel 185
 Wide from their spheres, and chaos come again.

AND yet was every faltering tongue of Man,
 ALMIGHTY POET ! silent in thy praise ;
 Thy matchless works in each exalted line,
 And all the full harmonic universe, 190
 Would vocal, or expressive, thee attest,
 The cause, the glory, and the end of all !

To me be NATURE's volume wide display'd ;
 And to peruse the broad illumin'd page,
 Or haply catching inspiration thence,
 Some easy passage, raptur'd, to translate, 195
 My sole delight ; as thro' the falling glooms

Pensive I muse, or with the rising day,
On Fancy's eagle-wing excursive soar.

FIERCE flaming up the heavens, the piercing sun
Melts into limpid air the high-rais'd clouds,
And morning mists that hover'd round the hills,
In party-colour'd bands ; till all unveil'd
The face of nature shines, from where earth seems,
Far-stretch'd around, to meet the bending sphere.

200

205

HALF in a blush of clustering roses lost,
Dew-dropping Coolness to the shade retires ;
And tyrant Heat, disspreading thro' the sky,
By sharp degrees, his burning influence rains
On man, and beast, and herb, and tepid stream.

210

Who can unpitying see the flowery race,
Shed by the morn, their new-flush'd bloom resign,
Before th' unbating beam ! so fade the Fair,
When fevers revel thro' their azure veins.
But one, the follower of the sun, they say,

215

Sad

Sad when he sets, shuts up her yellow leaves,
Weeping all night; and when he warm returns,
Points her enamour'd bosom to his ray.

HOME, from his morning task, the swain retreats;

His flock before him stepping to the fold:

220

While the full-udder'd mother lows around

The cheerful cottage then expecting food,

The food of innocence, and health! The daw,

The rook, and magpie, to the grey-grown oaks:

(That the calm village, in their verdant arms,

225

Sheltering, embrace) direct their lazy flight;

Where on the mingling boughs they sit embower'd,

All the hot noon, till cooler hours arise.

Faint, underneath, the homely fowls convene;

And, in a corner of the buzzing shade,

230

The house dog, with th' employless grey-hound, lies,

Outstretch'd, and sleepy: in his slumbers one

Attacks the nightly thief, and one exults.

O'er hill and dale; till waken'd by the wasp,

They bootless snap. Nor shall the Muse disdain.

235

To

To let the little noisy summer-race
Live in her lay, and flutter thro' her song,
Not mean, tho' simple; to the sun ally'd,
From him their high descent, direct, they draw.

WAK'D by his warmer ray, the reptile young 240
Come wing'd abroad ; by the light air upborn,
Lighter, and full of life. From every chink,
And secret corner, where they slept away
The wintry glooms, by myriads, all at once,
Swarming, they pour : green, speckled, yellow, grey, 245
Black, azure, brown ; more than th' assited eye
Of poring Virtuoso can discern.
Ten thousand forms ! Ten thousand different tribes !
People the blaze. To sunny waters some
By fatal instinct fly ; where on the pool 250
They, sportive, wheel ; or, sailing down the stream,
Are snatch'd immediate by the springing Trout,
Often beguil'd. Some thro' the green-wood glade
Delight to stray ; there lodg'd, amus'd, and fed,
In the fresh leaf. Luxurious, others make 255
The

The meads their choice, and visit every flower,
 And every latent herb; but careful still
 To shun the mazes of the sounding bee,
 As o'er the blooms he sweeps. Some to the house,
 The fold, and dairy, hungry, bend their flight; 260
 Sip round the pail, or taste the curdling cheese:
 Oft, inadvertent, by the boiling stream
 They're pierc'd to death; or weltering in the bowl,
 With powerless wings around them wrapt, expire.

BUT chief to heedless flies the window proves 265
 A constant death; where, gloomily retir'd,
 The villain spider lives, cunning, and fierce,
 Mixture abhorr'd! Amid a mangled heap
 Of carcasses, in eager watch he sits,
 O'erlooking all his waving snares around. 270
 Within an inch the dreadless wanderer oft
 Pastes, as oft the ruffian shows his front.
 The prey at last ensnar'd, he dreadful darts,
 With rapid glide, along the leaning line;
 And, fixing in the fly his cruel fangs, 275

Strides backward grimly pleas'd : the fluttering wing,
And shriller sound declare extream distress,
And ask the helping, hospitable hand.

ECHOES the living surface of the ground ;
Nor undelightful is the ceaseless hum, 280
To him who muses thro' the woods at noon ;
Or drowsy Shepherd, as he lies reclin'd,
With half-shut eyes, beneath the floating shade
Of willows grey, close-crowding o'er the brook.

LET no presuming impious railer tax 285
CREATIVE WISDOM, as if ought was form'd
In vain, or not for admirable ends.
Shall little, haughty ignorance pronounce
His works unwise ; of which the smallest part
Exceeds the narrow vision of his mind ? 190
Thus on the concave of a sounding dome,
On swelling columns heav'd, the pride of art !
Wanders a critic fly ; his feeble ray
Extends an inch around, yet blindly bold

He dares dislike the structure of the whole.
 And lives the man, whose universal eye
 Has swept at once th' unbounded scheme of things ;
 Mark'd their dependance so, and firm accord,
 As with unfaltering accent to conclude
 That THIS availeth nought ? Has any seen
 The mighty chain of beings, lessening down
 From INFINITE PERFECTION to the brink
 Of dreary' NOTHING, desolate abyss !
 Recoiling giddy thought : or with sharp glance,
 Such as remotely-waiting spirits use,
 Beheld the glories of the little world ?
 Till then alone let zealous praise ascend,
 And hymns of heavenly wonder, to that POWER,
 Whose wisdom shines as lovely on our minds,
 As on our smiling eyes his servant-sun.

300

305

310

THICK, in yon stream of light, a thousand ways,
 Upwards and downwards, thwarting, and convolv'd,
 The quivering kingdoms sport ; with tempest-wing,
 Till WINTER sweeps them from the face of day.

Even so luxurious men, unheeding, pass
 An idle summer-life in fortune's shine,
 A season's glitter! In soft-circling robes,
 Which the hard hand of INDUSTRY has wrought,
 The human insects glow; by HUNGER fed,
 And chear'd by toiling THIRST, they rove about
 From toy to trifle, vanity to vice;
 Till blown away by Death, Oblivion comes
 Behind, and strikes them from the book of life.

315

320

Now swarms the village o'er the jovial mead;
 The rustic youth, brown with meridian toil,
 Healthful, and strong; full as the summer-rose
 Blown by prevailing suns, the blooming maid,
 Half-naked, swelling on the sight, and all
 Her kindled graces burning o'er her cheek.
 Even stooping age is here; and infant hands
 Trail the long rake, or with the fragrant load
 O'ercharg'd, amid the soft oppression roll.
 Wide flies the tedded grain; all in a row
 Advancing broad, or wheeling round the field,

325

330

They

They spread the tawny harvest to the sun,
That casts refreshful round a rural smell :
Or, as they rake the green-appearing ground,
And drive the dusky wave along the mead,
Rises the russet hay-cock thick behind,
In order gay. While heard from dale to dale,
Waking the breeze, resounds the blended voice
Of happy labour, love, and social glee.

335

340

'Tis raging noon ; and, vertical, the sun
Shoots thro' th' expanding air a torrid gleam:
O'er heaven and earth, far as the darted eye
Can pierce, a dazzling deluge reigns ; and all
From pole to pole is undistinguish'd blaze.
Down to the dusty earth the sight, o'erpower'd,
Stoops for relief; but thence ascending streams,
And keen reflection pain. Burnt to the heart
Are the refreshless fields ; their arid hue
Adds a new fever to the sickening soul :
And o'er their slippery surface wary treads
The foot of thirsty pilgrim, often dipt

345

350

In

In a cross rill, presenting to his wish 355

A living draught : he feels before he drinks !

Echo no more returns the sandy sound

Of sharpening scythe; the mower sinking heaps

O'er him the humid hay, with flowers perfum'd;

And scarce a chirping grasshopper is heard

Thro' the dumb mead. Distressful nature pants.

The desert reddens ; and the stubborn rock,

Split to the centre, sweats at every pore.

The very streams look languid from afar;

Or, thro' the fervid glade, impetuous hurl

Into the shelter of the crackling grove.

ALL-CONQUERING heat, oh intermit thy wrath!

And on my throbbing temples potent thus

Beam not so hard ! incessant still you flow,

And still another fervent flood succeeds,

Pour'd on the head profuse. In vain I sigh,

And restless turn, and look around for night;

Night is far off; and hotter hours approach.

Who can endure! The too resplendent scene

Already †

Already darkens on the dizzy sight, 375

And double objects dance ; unreal sounds

Sing deep around ; a weight of sultry dew

Hangs deathful on the limbs ; shiver the nerves ;

The supple sinews sink ; and on the heart,

Misgiving, horror lays his heavy hand.

380

Thrice happy he ! that on the sunless side

Of a romantic mountain, forest-crown'd;

Beneath the whole collected shade reclines :

Or in the gelid caverns, woodbine-wrought,

And fresh bedew'd with ever-spouting streams,

Sits coolly calm ; while all the world without,

Unsatisfy'd, and sick, tosses in noon.

Emblem instructive of the virtuous man,

Who keeps his temper'd mind serene, and pure,

And all his passions aptly harmoniz'd,

385

Amid a jarring world, with vice inflam'd.

WELCOME, ye shades! ye bowery thi

Ye lofty pines! ye venerable oaks!

Ye ashes wild, resounding o'er the s

Delicious

Delicious is your shelter to the soul, 395

As to the hunted hart the sallying spring,
Or stream full-flowing, that his swelling sides
Laves, as he floats along the herbag'd brink.

Cold thro' the nerves, your pleasing comfort glides ;
The heart beats glad ; the fresh-expanded eye, 400
And ear resume their watch ; the sinews knit ;
And life shoots swift thro' every lighten'd limb.

ALL in th' adjoining brook, that shrills along

The vocal grove, now fretting o'er a rock,
Now scarcely moving thro' a reedy pool, 405

Now starting to a sudden stream, and now
Gently diffus'd into a limpid plain ;

A various groupe the herds and flocks compose ;
Rural confusion ! on the grassy bank

Some ruminating lie ; while others stand 410
Half in the flood, and often bending sip

The circling surface. In the middle droops
The strong laborious ox, of honest front,
Which incompos'd he shakes ; and from his sides

The

The troubrous insects lashes with his tail,
Returning still. Amid his subjects safe,
Slumbers the monarch-swain ; his careless arm
Thrown round his head on downy moss sustain'd ;
Here laid his scrip, with wholesome viands fill'd ;
And there his scepter-crook, and watchful dog.

420

LIGHT fly his slumbers, if perchance a flight
Of angry hornets fasten on the herd ;
That startling scatters from the shallow brook,
In search of lavish stream. Tossing the foam,
They scorn the keeper's voice, and scour the plain,
Thro' all the bright severity of noon ;
While, from their labouring breasts, a hollow moan
Proceeding, runs low-bellowing round the hills.

425

OFF in this season too the horse provok'd,
While his big sinews, full of spirits, swell,
Trembling with vigour, in the heat of blood,
Springs the high fence ; and, o'er the field effus'd,
Darts on the gloomy flood, with steady eye,

430

M

And

And heart estrang'd to fear : his nervous chest,
 Luxuriant, and erect, the seat of strength !
 Bears down th' opposing stream : quenchless his thirst,
 He takes the river at redoubled draughts ;
 And with wide nostrils, snorting, skims the wave.

435

STILL let me pierce into the midnight depth
 Of yonder grove, of wildest, largest growth ;
 That, high embowering in the middle air,
 Nods o'er the mount beneath. At every step,
 Solemn, and slow, the shadows blacker fall,
 And all is awful, silent gloom around.

440

THESE are the haunts of Meditation, these
 The scenes where antient Bards th' inspiring breath,
 Extatic felt ; and, from this world retir'd,
 Convers'd with angels, and immortal forms,
 On heavenly errands bent : to save the fall
 Of virtue struggling on the brink of vice ;
 In waking whispers, and repeated dreams,
 To hint pure thought, and warn'd the favour'd soul,

445

450

For

For future tryals fated to prepare ;
 To prompt the Poet, who devoted gives
 His muse to better themes ; to sooth the pangs 455
 Of dying Saints ; and from the Patriot's breast,
 (Backward to mingle in detested war,
 But foremost when engag'd) to turn the death ;
 And numberless such offices of love,
 Daily, and nightly, zealous to perform. 460

SHOOK sudden from the bosom of the sky,
 A thousand shapes or glide athwart the dusk,
 Or stalk majestic on. Arrous'd, I feel
 A sacred terror, and severe delight,
 Creep thro' my mortal frame ; and thus, methinks, 465
 Those accents murmur'd in th' abstracted ear,
 Pronounce distinct. " Be not of us afraid,
 " Poor kindred man, thy fellow creatures, we
 " From the same PARENT-POWER our beings drew,
 " The same our LORD, and laws, and great pursuit. 470
 " Once some of us, like thee, thro' stormy life,
 " Toil'd, tempest-beaten, ere we could attain

" This holy calm, this harmony of mind,
 " Where purity and peace immingle charms.
 " Then fear us not ; but with responsive song, 475
 " Oft in these dim recesses, undisturb'd
 " By noisy folly, and discordant vice,
 " Of nature sing with us, and nature's God.
 " And frequent at the middle waste of night,
 " Or all day long, in desarts still, are heard, 480
 " Now here, now there, now wheeling in mid-sky,
 " Around, or underneath, aerial sounds,
 " Sent from angelic harps, and voices join'd.
 " A happiness bestow'd by us, alone,
 " On Contemplation, or the hallow'd ear 485
 " Of Poet, swelling to seraphic strain."

Thus up the mount, in visionary muse,
 I stray, regardless whither ; till the stun
 Of a near fall of water every sense
 Wakes from the charm of thought : swift-shrinking back, 490
 I stand aghast, and view the broken scene.

Smooth to the shaggy brink a spreading flood
 Rolls fair, and placid ; till collected all,
 In one big glut, as sinks the shelving ground,
 Th' impetuous torrent, tumbling down the steep, 495
 Thunders, and shakes th' astonish'd country round.
 Now a blue watry sheet ; anon dispers'd,
 A hoary mist ; then gather'd in again,
 A darted stream a-slant the hollow rock,
 This way, and that tormented ; dashing thick, 500
 From steep to steep, with wild, inflected course,
 And restless roaring to the humble vale.

With the rough prospect tir'd, I turn my gaze,
 Where, in long vista, the soft-murmuring main
 Darts a green lustre, trembling thro' the trees ; 505
 Or to yon silver-streaming threads of light,
 A showery radiance, beaming thro' the boughs.
 Invited from the rock, to whose dark cliff
 He clings, the steep-ascending eagle soars,
 With upward pinions thro' th' attractive gleam ; 510
 And, giving full his bosom to the blaze,

Gains

Gains on the sun ; while all the feathery race,
 Smote with afflictive noon, disorder'd droop,
 Deep in the thicket ; or, from bower to bower
 Responsive, force an interrupted strain.

515

The stock-dove only thro' the forest cooes,
 Mournfully hoarse ; oft ceasing from his plaint,
 Short interval of weary woe ! again
 The sad idea of his murder'd mate,
 Struck from his side by savage fowler's guile,

520

Across his fancy comes ; and then resounds
 A louder song of sorrow thro' the' grove.

BESIDE the dewy border let me sit,
 All in the freshness of the humid air ;
 There on that rock, by NATURE's chissel carv'd,

525

An ample chair, moss-lin'd, and over head
 By flowering umbrage shaded ; where the bee
 Strays diligent, and with th' extracted sweet
 Of honey-suckle loads his little thigh.

AND what a various prospect lies around !

530

Of hills, and vales, and woods, and lawns, and spires
And towns betwixt, and gilded streams; till all
The stretching landskip into smoak decays.

HAPPY BRITANNIA! where the Queen of arts,

Inspiring vigour, LIBERTY abroad

535

Walks thro' the land of Heroes, unconfin'd
And scatters plenty with unsparing hand.

RICH is thy soil, and merciful thy skies;

Thy streams unfailing in the summer's drought;

Unmatch'd thy guardian-oaks; thy vallies float

540

With golden waves; and on thy mountains flocks

Bleat, numberless; while, roving round their sides,

Bellow the blackening herds in lusty droves.

Beneath, thy meadows flame, and rise unquell'd,

Against the mower's scythe. On every hand,

545

Thy villas shine. Thy country teems with wealth;

And PROPERTY assures it to the swain,

Pleas'd, and unwearied, in his certain toil.

FULL are thy cities with the sons of ART ;
 And Trade, and Joy, in every busy street, 550
 Mingling are heard : even DRUDGERY himself,
 As at the car he sweats, or dusty hews
 The palace-stone, looks gay. Thy crowded ports,
 Where rising masts an endless prospect yield,
 With labour burn, and echo to the shouts 555 ..
 Of hurry'd sailor, as he hearty waves
 His last adieu, and loosening every sheet,
 Resigns the spreading vessel to the wind.

BOLD, firm, and graceful, are thy generous youth,
 By hardship sinew'd, and by danger fir'd, 560
 Scattering the nations where they go ; and first,
 Or in the listed plain, or wintry seas.
 Mild are thy glories too, as o'er the plans
 Of thriving peace thy thoughtful fires preside ;
 In genius, and substantial learning high ; 565
 For every virtue, every worth renown'd,
 Sincere, plain-hearted, hospitable, kind ;
 Yet like the mustering thunder when provok'd ;

The

The dread of tyrants, and the sole resource
Of such as under grim Oppression groan.

570

Thy sons of glory many ! thine a MORE,
As CATO firm, as ARISTIDES just,
Like rigid CINCINNATUS nobly poor,
A dauntless soul, erect, who smil'd on death.

Frugal, and wise, a WALSINGHAM is thine ;
A DRAKE, who made thee mistress of the deep,
And bore thy name in thunder round the world.
Then flam'd thy spirit high ; but who can speak
The numerous worthies of the MAIDEN reign ?

In RALEIGH mark their every glory mix'd,

RALEIGH, the scourge of SPAIN ! whose breast with all
The sage, the patriot, and the hero burn'd.
Nor sunk his vigour, when a coward-reign
The warrior fetter'd, and at last resign'd,
To glut the vengeance of a vanquish'd foe.

Then deep thro' fate his mind retorted saw,
And with his prison-hours enrich'd the world ;
Yet found no times, in all the long research,

585

So glorious, or so base, as those he prov'd,
In which he conquer'd, and in which he bled.

590

A H A M B D E N thine, of unsubmitting soul ;
Who stem'd the torrent of a downward age,
To slavery prone ; and bad thee rise again,
In all thy native pomp of F R E E D O M fierce.

Nor can the muse the gallant S I D N E Y pass,
The plume of war ! with every laurel crown'd,
The lover's myrtle, and the poet's bay.

595

Nor him of later name, firm to the cause
Of L I B E R T Y, her rough determin'd friend,
The B R I T I S H B R U T U S ; whose united blood
With R U S S E L, thine, thou patriot wise, and calm,
Stain'd the sad annals of a giddy reign ;
Aiming at lawless power, tho' meanly sunk
In loose inglorious sloth. High thy renown
In S A G E S too, far as the sacred light
Of science spreads, and wakes the muses' song.

600

Thine is a B A C O N form'd of happy mold,
When N A T U R E smil'd, deep, comprehensive, clear,
Exact, and elegant ; in one rich soul,

605

S U M M E R.

91

PLATO, the STAGYRITE, and TULLY join'd:

610

The generous * ASHLEY thine, the friend of man ;
Who scan'd his nature with a brother's eye,
His weakness prompt to shade, to raise his aim,
To touch the finer movements of the mind,
And with the MORAL BEAUTY charm the heart.

615

What need I name thy BOYLE, whose pious search
Still sought the great CREATIOR in his works,
By sure experience led : and why thy LOCKE,
Who made the whole internal world his own ?
Let comprehensive NEWTON speak thy fame,
In all philosophy. For solemn song,

620

Is not wild SHAKESPEAR nature's boast, and thine ?

And every greatly amiable muse
Of elder ages in thy MILTON met ?

His was the treasure of two thousand years,

625

Seldom indulg'd to man ; a god-like mind,
Unlimited, and various, as his THEME ;
Astonishing as CHAOS ; as the bloom

* ANTHONY ASHLEY COOPER, Earl of Shaftesbury.

Of blowing EDEN fair; soft as the talk
 Of our GRAND PARENTS, and as HEAVEN sublime. 630

MAY my song soften as, thy daughters, I,
 BRITANNIA, hail! for beauty is their own,
 The feeling heart, simplicity of life,
 And elegance, and taste: the faultless form,
 Shap'd by the hand of HARMONY; the cheek, 635
 Where the live crimson, thro' the native white
 Soft-shooting, o'er the face diffuses bloom,
 And every nameless grace; the parted lip,
 Like the red rose-bud, moist with morning-dew,
 Breathing delight; and, under flowing jet, 640
 Or sunny ringlets, or of circling brown,
 The neck slight-shaded, and the swelling breast;
 The look resistless, piercing to the soul,
 And by the soul inform'd, when, dreft in love,
 She sits high smiling in the conscious eye. 645

ISLAND of bliss! amid the subject seas,
 That thunder round thy rocky coasts, set up,
 At once the wonder, terror, and delight,

Of

Of distant nations; whose remotest shore
 Can soon be shaken by thy naval arm; 650
 Not to be shook thy self, but all assaults
 Baffling, like thy hoar cliffs the loud sea-wave.

O THOU! by whose almighty NOD the scale
 Of empire rises, or alternate falls,
 Send forth the saving VIRTUES round the land, 655
 In bright patrol: white PEACE, and social LOVE;
 The tender-looking CHARITY, intent
 On gentle deeds, and shedding tears thro' smiles;
 Undaunted TRUTH, and DIGNITY of mind;
 COURAGE compos'd, and keen; sound TEMPERANCE, 660
 Healthful in heart and look; clear CHASTITY,
 With blushes reddening as she moves along,
 Disorder'd at the deep regard she draws;
 Rough INDUSTRY; ACTIVITY untir'd,
 With copious life inform'd, and all awake: 665
 While, in the radiant front, superior shines
 That first paternal Virtue, PUBLIC ZEAL,
 Who casts o'er all an equal, wide survey,

And

And ever musing on the common weal,
Still labours glorious with some brave design.

670

Thus far transported by my country's love,
Nobly digressive from my theme, I've aim'd
To sing her praises in ambitious verse ;
While, slightly to recount, I simply meant,
The various summer-horrors, which infest
Kingdoms that scorch below severer suns : 675

KINGDOMS on which, direct, the flood of day
Oppressive falls, and gives the gloomy hue,
And feature glofs ; or worse, to ruthless deeds,
Wan jealousy, red rage, and fell revenge,
Their hasty spirit prompts. Ill-fated race !
Altho' the treasures of the sun be theirs,
Rocks rich in gems, and mountains big with mines ;
Whence, over sands of gold, the NIGER rolls
His amber wave ; while on his balmy banks,
Or in the spicy ABYSSINIAN vales,
The citron, orange, and pomegranate, drink 680
685

Intro-

Intolerable day, yet in their coats
 A cooling juice contain. Peaceful beneath, 690
 Leans the huge elephant ; and in his shade
 A multitude of beauteous creatures play,
 And birds of bolder note rejoice around.

AND oft amid their aromatic groves,
 Touch'd by the torch of noon, the gummy bark,
 Smouldering, begins to roll the dusky wreath. 695
 Instant, so swift the ruddy ruin spreads,
 A cloud of Incense shadows all the land ;
 And, o'er a thousand thundering trees at once,
 Riots with lawless rage the running blaze :
 But chiefly should fomenting winds assist, 700
 And doubling blend the circulating waves
 Of flame tempestuous ; or directly on,
 Far-streaming, drive them thro' the forest's length.

BUT other views await ; where heaven above
 Glows like an arch of bras ; and all below, 705
 The brown-burnt earth a mass of iron lies ;
 Of

Of fruits, and flowers, and every verdure spoilt ;
 Barren, and bare, a joyless, weary waste ;
 Thin-cottag'd ; and in time of trying need,
 Abandon'd by the vanish'd brook ; like one
 Of fading fortune by his treacherous friend.

710

SUCH are thy horrid desarts, BARCA ; such,
 ZARA, thy hot inhospitable sands ;
 Continuous rising often with the blast,
 Till the sun sees no more ; and unknit earth,
 Shook by the south into the darken'd air,
 Falls in new hilly kingdoms o'er the waste.

715

HENCE late expos'd (if distant fame says true)
 A smother'd city from the sandy wave
 Emergent rose ; with olive-fields around,
 Fresh woods, reclining herds, and silent flocks,
 Amusing all, and incorrupted seen.
 For by the nitrous penetrating salts,
 Mix'd copious with the sand, pierc'd, and preserv'd,
 Each object hardens gradual into stone,

720

725

Its

Its posture fixes, and its colour keeps. 725

The statue-folk, within, unnumber'd crowd
The streets, in various attitudes surpriz'd
By sudden fate, and live on every face
The passions caught, beyond the sculptor's art.

Here leaning soft, the marble-lovers stand,
Delighted even in death ; and each for each
Feeling alone, with that expressive look,
Which perfect NATURE only knows to give.

And there the father agonizing bends
Fond o'er his weeping wife, and infant train
Aghast, and trembling, tho' they know not why.

The stiffen'd vulgar stretch their arms to heaven,
With horror staring ; while in council deep
Assembled full, the hoary-headed sires
Sit sadly-thoughtful of the public fate. 740

As when old ROME, beneath the raging GAUL,
Sunk her proud turrets, resolute on death,
Around the FORUM sat the grey divan
Of SENATORS, majestic, motionless,
With ivory-staves, and in their awful robes 745

Dress'd like the falling fathers of mankind ;
 Amaz'd, and shivering, from the solemn sight
 The red barbarians shrunk, and deem'd them Gods.

'T is here that THIRST has fix'd his dry domain ;
 And walks his wide, malignant round, in search 750
 Of pilgrim lost; or on the * MERCHANT's tomb
 Triumphant sits, who for a single cruise
 Of unavailing water paid so dear :
 Nor could the gold his hard associate save.

HERE the green serpent gathers up his train, 755
 In orbs immense; then darting out anew,
 Progressive, rattles thro' the wither'd brake;
 And, lolling frightful, guards the scanty fount,
 If fount there be : or of diminish'd size,
 But mighty mischief, on th' unguarded swain 760
 Steals, full of rancour. Here the savage race

* In the desert of Araoan are two tombs with inscriptions on them, importing that the persons there interr'd were a rich merchant, and a poor carrier, who both died of thirst; and that the former had given to the latter ten thousand ducats for one cruise of water.

Roam,

Roam, licens'd by the shading hour of blood,
 And foul misdeed, when the pure day has shut
 His sacred eye. The rabid tyger then,
 The fiery panther, and the whisker'd pard,
 (Bespeckled fair, the beauty of the waste) 765
 In dire divan, surround their SHAGGY KING,
 Majestic, stalking o'er the burning sand,
 With planted step; while an obsequious crowd
 Of grinning forms at humble distance wait.
 These all together join'd from darksome caves,
 Where o'er gnaw'd bones they slumber'd out the day,
 By supreme hunger smit, and thirst intense,
 At once their mingling voices raise to H E A V E N ;
 And, with imperious and repeated roars, 775
 Demanding food, the wilderness resounds,
 From ATLAS eastward to the frightened NILE.

U N H A P P Y he! who from the first of joys,
 Society, cut off, is left alone
 Amid this world of death. Ceaseless he sits, 780
 Sad on the jutting eminence, and views

The rowling main, that ever toils below ;
 Still fondly forming in the farthest verge,
 Where the round ether mixes with the wave,
 Ships, dim-discover'd, dropping from the clouds.

785

At evening, to the setting sun he turns
 A mournful eye, and down his dying heart
 Sinks helpless ; while the wonted roar is up,
 And his continual thro' the tedious night.



Y E T here, even here, into these black abodes
 Of monsters, unappall'd, from stooping ROME,
 And haughty CÆSAR, LIBERTY retir'd,
 With CATO leading thro' NUMIDIAN wilds :
 Disdainful of CAMPANIA's fertile plains,
 And all the green delights of ITALY ;
 When for them she must bend the servile knee,
 And fawning take the blessings once her own.

790

795

W H A T need I mention those inclement skies,
 Where frequent, o'er the sickening city, PLAGUE,
 The fiercest son of NEMESIS DIVINE,

800

Collects

Collects a close, incumbent night of death;
Uninterrupted by the living winds,
Forbid to blow a wholesome breeze; and stain'd
With many a mixture, by the sun suffus'd,
Of angry aspect? Princely WISDOM then
Dejects his watchful eye; and from the hand
Of drooping JUSTICE, ineffectual, falls
The sword, and balance. Mute the voice of Joy;
And hush'd the murmur of the busy world.

805

Empty the streets, with uncouth verdure clad,
And rang'd at open noon by beasts of prey,
And birds of bloody beak. The sullen door
No visit knows, nor hears the wailing voice
Of fervent Want. Even soul-attracted friends,
And relatives endear'd for many a year,
Savag'd by woe, forget the social tye,
The close engagement of the kindred heart;
And, sick in solitude, successive die,
Untended, and unmourn'd. While to compleat
The scene of desolation, wide around,

810

815

820
Denying

Denying all retreat, the grim guards stand,
And give the flying wretch a better death.

MUCH of the force of foreign SUMMERS still,
Of growling hills that shoot the pillar'd flame,
Of earthquake, and pale famine, could I sing; 825
But equal scenes of horror call me home.

FOR now, slow-settling, o'er the lurid grove,
Unusual darkness broods; and growing gains
The broad possession of the sky, surcharg'd
With wrathful vapour, from the damp abrupt, 830
Where sleep the mineral generations, drawn.
Thence nitre, sulphur, vitriol, on the day
Steam, and fermenting in yon baleful cloud,
Extensive o'er the world a reddening gloom!
In dreadful promptitude to spring, await 835
The high command. A boding silence reigns
Dread thro' the dun expanse, save the dull sound,
That from the mountain, previous to the storm,
Rowls o'er the trembling earth, disturbs the flood,

And

And stirs the forest-leaf without a breath.

840

Prone, to the lowest vale, th' aerial tribes
Descend : the tempest-loving raven scarce
Dares wing the dubious dusk. In rueful gaze
The cattel stand, and on the scouling heavens
Cast a deploring eye ; by man forsook,
Who to the crowded cottage hies him fast,
Or seeks the shelter of the downward cave.

845

'Tis dumb amaze, and listening terror all ;
When to the quicker eye the livid glance
Appears far south, emissive thro' the cloud ;
And, by the powerful breath of GOD inflate,
The thunder raises his tremendous voice ;
At first low-muttering ; but at each approach,
The lightnings flash a larger curve, and more
The noise astounds : till over head a sheet
Of various flame discloses wide, then shuts
And opens wider, shuts and opens still
Expansive, wrapping ether in a blaze.
Follows the loosen'd, aggravated roar,

850

855

Enlarging,

Enlarging, deepening, mingling, peal on peal
Crush'd horrible, convulsing heaven and earth. 860

Down comes a deluge of sonorous hail,
In the white, heavenly magazines congeal'd ;
And often fatal to th' unshelter'd head
Of man, or rougher beast. Wide-rent, the clouds 865
Pour a whole flood ; and yet, its rage unquench'd,
Th' inconquerable lightning struggles thro',
Ragged, and fierce, or in red whirling balls,
And strikes the shepherd, as he shuddering sits,
Presaging ruin, mid the rocky clift. 870
His inmost marrow feels the gliding flame ;
He dies ; and, like a statue grim'd with age,
His live dejected posture still remains ;
His russet sing'd, and rent his hanging hat,
Against his crook his footy cheek reclin'd ; 875
While, whining at his feet, his half-stun'd dog,
Importunately kind, and fearful, pats
On his insensate master for relief.

BLACK from the stroak, above, the mountain-pine,
A leaning shatter'd trunk, stands scath'd to heaven, 880
The talk of future ages; and, below,
A lifelesg groupe the blasted cattle lie:
Here the soft flocks, with that same harmlesg look,
They wore alive, and ruminating still,
In Fancy's eye; and there the frowning bull, 885
And ox half-rais'd. A little farther, burns
The guiltlesg cottage; and the haughty dome
Stoops to the base. In one immediate flash,
The forest falls; or, flaming out, displays
The savage-haunts, unpierc'd by day before. 890
Scar'd is the mountain's brow; and from the cliff
Tumbles the smitten rock. The desart shakes,
And gleams, and grumbles, thro' his deepest dens.

GUILT dubious hears, with deeply-troubled thought;
And yet not always on the guilty head 895
Falls the devoted flash. Young CELADON
And his AMELIA were a matchless twain;
With equal virtue form'd, and equal grace,

The same, distinguish'd by their sex alone :

Hers the mild lustre of the blooming morn,

900

And his the radiance of the risen day.

THEY lov'd. But such their guileless passion was,

As in the dawn of time alarm'd the heart

Of INNOCENCE, and undissembling TRUTH.

'Twas friendship, heighten'd by the mutual wish,

905

Th' enchanting hope, and sympathetick glow,

Struck from the charmful eye. Devoting all

To love, each was to each a dearer self;

Supremely happy in th' awaken'd power

Of giving joy. Alone, amid the shades,

910

Still in harmonious intercourse they liv'd

The rural day, and talk'd the flowing heart,

Or sigh'd, and look'd unutterable things.

Thus pass'd their life, a clear united stream,

By care unruffled; till in evil hour

915

The tempest caught them on the tender walk,

Heedless how far. Her breast presageful heav'd

Unwonted

- Unwonted sighs, and stealing oft a look
 Of the big gloom, on CELADON her eye
 Fell tearful, wetting her disorder'd cheek. 920
- In vain assuring love, and confidence
 In heaven repress'd her fear ; it grew, and shook
 Her frame near dissolution. He perceiv'd
 Th' unequal conflict, and as angels look
 On dying saints, his eyes compassion shed, 925
 With love illumin'd high. " Fear not, he said,
 " Fair innocence ! thou stranger to offence,
 " And inward storm ! HE, who yon skies involves
 " In frowns of darkness, ever smiles on thee,
 " With full regard. O'er thee the secret shaft 930
 " That wastes at midnight, or th' undreaded hour
 " Of noon, flies hurtless ; and that very voice,
 " Which thunders terror thro' the conscious heart,
 " With tongues of seraphs whispers peace to thine.
 " 'Tis safety to be near thee sure, and thus 935
 " To clasp perfection ! " From his void embrace,
 (Mysterious heaven !) that moment, in a heap
 Of pallid ashes fell the beauteous maid.

But who can paint the lover, as he stood,
 Struck by severe amazement, hating life,
 Speechless, and fix'd in all the death of woe!
 So, faint resemblance, on the marble-tomb,
 The well-dismembled mourner stooping stands,
 For ever silent, and for ever sad.

940

As from the face of heaven the shatter'd clouds
 Tumultuous rove, th' interminable blue,
 Delightful swells into the general arch,
 That copes the nations. Nature from the storm
 Shines out afresh ; and thro' the lighten'd air
 A higher lustre and a clearer calm,
 Diffusive, tremble ; while, as if in sign
 Of danger past, a glittering robe of joy,
 Set off abundant by the level ray,
 Invests the fields, yet dropping from distress.

945

950

'Tis beauty all, and graceful song around,
 Joyn'd to the low of kine, and numerous bleat
 Of flocks thick-nibbling thro' the clover'd vale.
 And shall the hymn be marr'd by thankless man,

955

Most

- Most-favour'd ; who with voice articulate
 Should lead the chorus of this lower world ? 960
- Shall he, so soon forgetful of the hand
 That hush'd the thunder, and expands the sky,
 After the tempest puff his idle vows ;
 And a new dance of vanity begin,
 Scarce ere the pant forsakes his feeble heart ? 965

CHEAR'D by the setting beam, the sprightly youth
 Speeds to the well-known pool, whose crystal depth
 A sandy bottom shows. A while he stands
 Gazing th' inverted landskip, half afraid
 To meditate the blue profound below ; 970

Then plunges headlong down the circling flood.
 His ebon tresses, and his rosy cheek
 Instant emerge ; and thro' the flexile wave,
 At each short breathing by his lip repell'd,
 With arms and legs according well, he makes, 975

As humour leads, an easy-winding path ;
 While, from his polish'd sides, a dewy light
 Effuses on the pleas'd spectators round.

'T w a s then beneath a secret-waving shade,
Where winded into lovely solitudes 980
Runs out the rambling dale, that D A M O N sat,
Thoughtful, and fix'd in philosophic muse:
D A M O N, who still amid the savage woods,
And lonely lawns, the force of beauty scorn'd,
Firm, and to false philosophy devote. 985
The brook ran babbling by; and sighing weak,
The breeze among the bending willows play'd:
When S A C H A R I S S A to the cool retreat,
With A M O R E T, and M U S I D O R A stole.
Warm in their cheek the sultry season glow'd; 990
And, rob'd in loose array, they came to bathe
Their fervent limbs in the refreshing stream.
Tall, and majestic, S A C H A R I S S A rose,
Superior treading, as on I D A's top
(So G R E C I A N bards in wanton fable sung) 995
High-shone the sister and the wife of J o v e.
Another P A L L A S M U S I D O R A seem'd,
Meek-ey'd, sedate, and gaining every look
A surer conquest of the sliding heart.

While,

While, like the CYPRIAN goddess, AMORET,1000
 Delicious dress'd in rosy-dimpled smiles,
 And all one softness, melted on the sense.
 Nor PARIS panted stronger, when aside
 The rival-goddesses the veil divine
 Cast unconfin'd, and gave him all their charms,1005
 Than, DAMON, thou; the stoick now no more,
 But man deep-felt, as from the snowy leg,
 And slender foot, th' inverted silk they drew;
 As the soft touch dissolv'd the virgin-zone;
 And, thro' the parting robe, th' alternate breast,1010
 With youth wild-throbbing, on thy lawless gaze
 Luxuriant rose. Yet more enamour'd still,
 When from their naked limbs, of glowing white,
 In folds loose-floating fell the fainter lawn;
 And fair expos'd they stood, shrunk from themselves;1015
 With fancy blushing; at the doubtful breeze
 Arrous'd, and starting, like the fearful fawn.
 * So stands the statue that enchant's the world,

* *The Venus of Medicis.*

Her full proportions such, and bashful so
Bends ineffectual from the roving eye.

1020

Then to the flood they rush'd ; the plunging fair
The parted flood with closing waves receiv'd ;
And, every beauty softening, every grace
Flushing afresh, a mellow lustre shed :

As shines the lily thro' the crystal mild ; 1025

Or as the rose amid the morning-dew
Puts on a warmer glow. In various play,
While thus they wanton'd ; now beneath the wave,
But ill conceal'd ; and now with streaming locks
That half-embrac'd them in a humid veil,

1030

Rising again ; the latent DAMON drew
Such draughts of love and beauty to the soul,
As put his harsh philosophy to flight,
The joyless search of long-deluded years ;
And MUSIDORA fixing in his heart, 1035

Inform'd, and humaniz'd him into man.

THIS is the purest exercise of health,
The kind refresher of the summer-heats ;

Nor

Nor when, the brook pellucid, Winter keens,
Would I weak-shivering linger on the brink.

1040

Thus life redoubles, and is oft preserv'd
By the bold swimmer, in the swift illapſe
Of accident diſasterous. Hence the limbs
Knit into force; and the ſame ROMAN arm,
That rose victorius o'er the conquer'd earth,
First learn'd, while tender, to ſubdue the wave.
Even from the body's purity the mind
Receives a ſecret, ſympathetic aid.

1045

Low walks the ſun, and broadens by degrees,
Just o'er the verge of day. The rising clouds,
That shift perpetual in his vivid train,
Their watry mirrors, numberleſs, oppoſ'd,
Unfold the hidden riches of his ray;
And chase a change of colours round the sky.
'Tis all one bluſh from eafh to weſt! and now,
Behind the dusky earth, he dips his orb;
Now half immers'd; and now a golden curve
Gives one faint glimmer, and then disappears.

1050

1055

FOR ever running an enchanted round,
 Passes the day, deceitful, tedious, void ; 1060
 As fleets the vision o'er the formful brain,
 This moment hurrying all th' impassion'd soul,
 The next in nothing lost. 'Tis so to him,
 The dreamer of this earth, a chearles blank :
 A sight of horror to the cruel wretch ; 1065
 Who, rowling in inhuman pleasure deep,
 The whole day long has made the widow pine ;
 And snatch'd the morsel from her orphan's mouth,
 To give his dogs. But to the tuneful mind,
 Who makes the hopeless heart to sing for joy, 1070
 Diffusing kind beneficence around,
 Boastless, as now descends the silent dew ;
 To him the long review of order'd life
 Is inward rapture, only to be felt.

CONFESS'D from yonder slow-extinguish'd clouds, 1075
 All ether sadening, sober EVENING takes
 Her wonted station in the middle air ;
 A thousand SHADOWS at her beck. First THIS
She

She sends on earth ; then THAT of deeper die
 Steals soft behind ; and then a DEEPER still,
 In circle following circle, gathers round,
 To close the face of things. A fresher breeze
 Begins to wave the wood, and stir the stream,
 Sweeping with shadowy gust the fields of corn ;
 While the quail clamours for his running mate.

1080

1085

HIS folded flock secure, the shepherd home
 Hies, merry-hearted ; and by turns relieves
 The ruddy milk-maid of her brimming pail ;
 The Beauty, whom perhaps his wileless heart,
 Unknowing what the joy-mixt anguish means,
 Loves fond, by the sincerest language shown
 Of cordial glances, and obliging deeds.
 Onward they pass, o'er many a panting height,
 And valley sunk, and unfrequented ; where
 At fall of eve the fairy people throng,
 In various game, and revelry to pass
 The summer-night, as village-stories tell.
 But far about they wander from the grave

1090

1095

Of him, whom his ungentle fortune urg'd
 Against himself to lift the hated hand 1100
 Of violence; by men cast out from life,
 And after death, to which they drove his hope,
 Into the broad way side. The ruin'd tower
 Is also shun'd; whose hoary chambers hold,
 So night-struck fancy dreams, the yelling ghost. 1105

AMONG the crooked lanes, on every hedge,
 The glow-worm lights his lamp; and, thro' the dark,
 Twinkles a moving gem. On EVENING's heel,
 NIGHT follows fast; not in her winter-robe
 Of massy stygian woof, but loose array'd 1110
 In mantle dun. A faint erroneous ray,
 Glanc'd from th' imperfect surfaces of things,
 Flings half an image on the straining eye.
 While wavering woods, and villages, and streams,
 And rocks, and mountain-tops, that long retain'd 1115
 Th' ascending gleam, are all one swimming scene,
 Doubtful if seen: whence sudden VISION turns
 To heaven; where VENUS, in the starry front,

Shines

Shines eminent ; and from her genial rise,
 When day-light sickens, till it springs afresh,
 Sheds influence on earth, to love, and life,
 And every form of vegetation kind.

As thus th' effulgence tremulous I drink,
 With glad peruse, the lambent lightnings shoot
 A-cross the sky ; or horizontal dart

O'er half the nations, in a minute's space,
 Conglob'd, or long. Astonishment succeeds,
 And silence, ere the various talk begin.

1120

1125

THE vulgar stare ; amazement is their joy,
 And mystic faith, a fond sequacious herd !

1130

But scrutinous PHILOSOPHY looks deep,
 With piercing eye, into the latent cause ;
 Nor can she swallow what she does not see.

With thee, serene PHILOSOPHY ! with thee,
 And thy high praises, let me crown my song !

1135

Effusive source of evidence, and truth !
 A lustre shedding o'er th' ennobled mind,
 Stronger than summer-noon ; and pure as that,

whole

Whose mild vibrations sooth the parted soul,

New to the dawning of coelestial day.

1140

Hence thro' her nourish'd powers, enlarg'd by thee,

She soaring spurns, with elevated pride,

The tangling mass of cares, and low desires,

That bind the fluttering crowd; and, angel-wing'd,

The heights of Science, and of Virtue gains,

1145

Where all is calm and clear; with Nature round

Or in the starry regions, or th' abyss,

To Reason's, and to Fancy's eye display'd:

The F I R S T up-tracing from the vast inane,

The chain of causes and effects to H I M,

1150

Who, all-sustaining, in himself, alone

Possesses B E I N G; while the L A S T receives

The whole magnificence of heaven and earth,

And every beauty, delicate or bold,

Obvious or more remote, with livelier sense,

1155

A world swift-painted on th' attentive mind.

TUTOR'D by thee, hence P O E T R Y exalts

Her voice to ages; and informs the page

With

With musick, image, sentiment, and thought,
 Never to die! the treasure of mankind,
 Their highest honour, and their truest joy!

1160

WITHOUT thee what were unassisted man?

A savage roaming thro' the woods and wilds,
 In quest of prey; and with th' unfashion'd furr
 Rough-clad; devoid of every honest art,
 And elegance of life. Nor home, nor joy
 Domestick, mix'd of tenderness and care,
 Nor moral excellence, nor social bliss,
 Nor law were his; nor property; nor swain,
 To turn the furrow; nor mechanic hand,
 Harden'd to toil; nor sailor bold; nor trade,
 Mother severe of infinite delights!

1165

Nothing, save rapine, indolence, and guile,
 And woes on woes, a still-revolving train!
 Whose horrid circle had made human life
 Than non-existence worse. But taught by thee
 Ours are the plans of policy, and peace;
 To live like brothers, and conjunctive all:

1170

1175

Embellish life. While thus laborious crouds
 Ply the tough oar, PHILOSOPHY directs,
 Star-led, the helm; or like the liberal breath
 Of urgent heaven, invisible, the sails
 Swells out, and bears th' inferior world along.

1180

NOR to this evanescent speck of earth
 Poorly confin'd, the radiant tracts on high
 Are her exalted range; intent to gaze
 Creation thro'; and, from that full complex
 Of never-ending wonders, to conceive
 Of THE SOLE BEING right, who spoke the word,
 And nature mov'd compleat. With inward view,
 Thence on th' ideal kingdom swift she turns
 Her eye; and instant, at her virtual glance,
 Th' obedient phantoms vanish or appear;
 Compound, divide, and into order shift,
 Each to his rank, from plain perception up
 To notion quite abstract; where first begins
 The world of spirits, action all, and life
 Immediate, and unmix'd. But here the cloud,

1185

1190

1195

So

A U T U M N.

Inscribed to the RIGHT HONOURABLE

ARTHUR ONSLOW, Esq;

SPEAKER of the HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The A R G U M E N T.

*The subject propos'd. Address to MR. ONSLOW. A prospect
of the fields ready for harvest. Reaping. A tale. A har-
vest storm. Shooting and hunting, their barbarity. A ludi-
crous account of fox-hunting. A view of an orchard. Wall-
fruit. A vineyard. A description of fogs, frequent in the
latter part of AUTUMN: whence a digression, enquiring
into the rise of fountains, and rivers. Birds of season con-
sidered, that now shift their habitation. The prodigious number of
them that cover the northern and western isles of SCOTLAND.
Hence a view of the country. A prospect of the discoloured,
fading woods. After a gentle dusky day, moon-light. Autum-
nal meteors. Morning: to which succeeds a calm, pure,
sun-shine day, such as usually shuts up the season. The
harvest being gathered in, the country dissolv'd in joy. The
whole concludes with a panegyrick on a philosophical
country life.*





W. Kent. inv. et del.

N. Tardieu Scul.



A U T U M N.


 R O W N ' D with the sickle, and the wheaten sheaf,
 While A U T U M N, nodding o'er the yellow plain,
 Comes jovial on ; the doric reed once more,
 Well-pleas'd, I tune. Whate'er the w i n t r y frost
 Nitrous prepar'd ; the various-blossom'd S P R I N G
 Put in white promise forth ; and S U M M E R-S U N S
 Concocted strong, rush boundless now to view,
 Full, perfect all, and swell my glorious theme.

O N S L O W ! the muse, ambitious of thy name,
 To grace, inspire, and dignify her song,

10

Would

Would from the PUBLIC VOICE thy gentle ear
 A while engage. Thy noble cares she knows,
 The patriot-virtues that distend thy thought,
 Spread on thy front, and in thy conduct glow ;
 While listening senates hang upon thy tongue, 15
 Devolving thro' the maze of eloquence
 A rowl of periods, sweeter than her song.
 But she too pants for publick virtue, she,
 Tho' weak of power, yet strong in ardent will,
 Whene'er her country rushes on her heart, 20
 Assumes a bolder note, and fondly tries
 To mix the patriot's with the poet's flame.

WHEN the bright VIRGIN gives the beauteous days,
 And LIBRA weighs in equal scales the year ;
 From heaven's high cope the fierce effulgence shook 25
 Of parting SUMMER, a serener blue,
 With golden light irradiate, wide invests
 The happy world. Attemper'd suns arise,
 Sweet-beam'd, and shedding oft thro' lucid clouds
 A pleasing calm ; while broad, and brown, below, 30

Unbounded

Unbounded harvests hang the heavy head.
 Rich, silent, deep, they stand ; for not a gale
 Rolls its light billows o'er the bending plain ;
 A calm of plenty ! till the ruffled air
 Falls from its poise, and gives the breeze to blow. 35
 Rent is the fleecy mantle of the sky ;
 The clouds fly different ; and the sudden sun
 By fits effulgent gilds th' illumin'd field,
 And black by fits the shadows sweep along.
 A gayly checker'd, wide-extended view, 40
 Far as the circling eye can shoot around,
 Convolv'd, and tossing in a flood of corn.

THESE are thy blessings INDUSTRY ! rough Power !
 Whom Labour still attends, and Sweat, and Pain ;
 Yet the kind source of every gentle art, 45
 And all the soft civility of life :
 Raiser of human kind ! by NATURE cast,
 Naked, and helpless, out amid the woods,
 And wilds, to rude inclement elements ;
 With various powers of deep efficiency 50
 Implanted,

Implanted, and profusely pour'd around
 Materials infinite ; but idle all.
 Still unexerted, in th' unconscious breast,
 Slept the lethargic powers ; Corruption still,
 Voracious, swallow'd what the liberal hand
 Of BOUNTY scatter'd o'er the savage year. } 55
 And still the sad barbarian, roving, mix'd
 With beasts of prey ; or for his acorn-meal
 Fought the fierce tusky boar : a shivering wretch !
 Aghast, and comfortless, when the red north, } 60
 With winter charg'd, let the mixt tempest fly,
 Hail, rain, and snow, and bitter-breathing frost.
 Then to the shelter of the hut he fled ;
 And the wild season, sordid, pin'd away.
 For home he had not ; home is the resort } 65
 Of love, of joy, of peace, and plenty, where,
 Supporting and supported, polish'd friends,
 And dear relations mingle into bliss.
 But this the rugged savage never felt,
 Even desolate in crouds ; and thus his days } 70
 Roll'd heavy, dark, and unenjoy'd along ;

A waste

A waste of time! till INDUSTRY approach'd,
And rous'd him from his miserable sloth;

His faculties unfolded; pointed out,
Where lavish NATURE the directing hand

Of ART demanded; shew'd him how to raise
His feeble force by the mechanic powers,
To dig the mineral from the vaulted earth,
On what to turn the piercing rage of fire,

On what the torrent, and the gather'd blast;

80

Gave the tall antient forest to his ax;

Taught him to chip the wood, and hew the stone,
Till by degrees the finish'd fabrick rose;
Tore from his limbs the blood-polluted fur,

And wrapt them in the woolly vestment warm,
Or bright in glossy silk, and flowing lawn;

85

With wholesome viands fill'd his table, pour'd
The generous glass around, inspir'd, to wake
The life-refining soul of decent wit:

Nor stopp'd at barren, bare necessity;

90

But still advancing bolder, led him on,
By hardy patience, and experience slow,

95

To pomp, to pleasure, elegance, and grace;
 And breathing high ambition thro' his soul,
 Set science, wisdom, glory in his view,
 And bad him be the L O R D of all below. 100

T H E N gathering men their natural powers combin'd,

And form'd a P U B L I C; to the general good
 Submitting, aiming, and conducting all.

For this the P A T R I O T - C O U N C I L met, the full, 105

The free, and fairly represented W H O L E;

For this devis'd the holy guardian laws,
 Distinguish'd orders, animated A R T S,

And with joint force O P P R E S S I O N chaining, set

I M P E R I A L J U S T I C E at the helm; yet still 110

To them accountable: nor slavish dream'd

That toiling millions must resign their weat,

And all the honey of their search, to such

As for themselves alone themselves have rais'd.

H E N C E every form of cultivated life

In order set, protected, and inspir'd,

115

Into

Into perfection wrought. Uniting all,
 Society grew numerous, high, polite,
 And happy. Nurse of art ! the city rose ;
 And stretching street on street by thousands led,
 From twining woody haunts, and the tough yew
 To bows strong-straining, her aspiring sons.

'Twas nought but labour, the whole dusky groupe
 Of clustering houses, and of mingling men,
 Restless design, and execution strong.

In every street the sounding hammer ply'd
 His massy task ; while the corrosive file,
 In flying touches, form'd the fine machine.

120

125

THEN COMMERCE brought into the public walk
 The busy Merchant ; the big ware-house built ;
 Rais'd the strong crane ; choak'd up the loaded street
 With foreign plenty ; and on thee, thou THAMES,
 Large, gentle, deep, majestic, king of floods !
 Than whom no river heaves a fuller tide,
 Seiz'd for his grand resort. On either hand,
 Like a long wintry forest, groves of masts

130

135

Shot up their spires ; the bellying sheet between
 Possess'd the breezy void ; the sooty hulk
 Steer'd sluggish on ; the splendid barge along
 Row'd, regular, to harmony ; around, 140
 The boat, light-skimming, stretch'd its oary wings ;
 While deep the various voice of fervent toil
 From bank to bank increas'd ; whence ribb'd with oak,
 To bear the BRITISH thunder, black, and bold,
 The roaring vessel rush'd into the main. 145

THEN too the pillar'd dome, magnific, heav'd
 His ample roof ; and LUXURY within
 Pour'd out her glittering stores. The canvas smooth,
 With glowing life protuberant, to the view
 Embodied rose. The statue seem'd to breathe, 150
 And soften into flesh, beneath the touch
 Of forming art, imagination-flush'd.

ALL is the gift of INDUSTRY ; whate'er
 Exalts, embellishes, and renders life
 Delightful. Pensive WINTER, clear'd by him. 155
 Sits

Sits at the social fire; and happy hears
Th' excluded tempest idly rave along.
His harden'd fingers deck the gaudy SPRING.
Without him SUMMER were an arid waste;
Nor to th' AUTUMNAL months could thus transmit 160
These full, mature, immeasurable stores,
That, waving round, recal my wandering song.

SOON as the morning trembles o'er the sky,
And, unperceiv'd, unfolds the spreading day;
Before the ripen'd field the reapers stand, 165
In fair array; each by the lafs he loves,
To bear the rougher part, and mitigate
By nameless gentle offices her toil.

At once they stoop, and swell the lusty sheaves;
While, bandied round and round, the rural task, 170
The rural scandal, and the rural jest
Fly hearty, to deceive the tedious time,
And chearly steal the sultry hours away.
Behind the master walks, builds up the shocks;
And, conscious, glancing oft this way and that 175
His

His fated eye, feels his heart heave with joy.
 The gleaners spread around, and here and there,
 Spike after spike, their sparing harvest pick.
 Be not too narrow, husband-men ! but fling
 From the full sheaf, with charitable stealth, 180
 The liberal handful. Think, oh grateful think !
 How good the God of harvest is to you ;
 Who pours abundance o'er your flowing fields ;
 While these unhappy partners of your kind
 Wide-hover round you, like the fowls of heaven, 185
 And ask their humble dole. The various turns
 Of fortune ponder ; that your sons may want
 What now, with hard reluctance, faint, ye give.

THE lovely young LAVINA once had friends ;
 And fortune smil'd, deceitful, on her birth. 190
 For in her helpless years depriv'd of all,
 Of every stay, save innocence and HEAVEN,
 She with her widow'd mother, feeble, old,
 And poor, liv'd in a cottage, lost far up
 Amid the windings of a woody vale ; 195
 Safe

Safe from the cruel, blasting arts of man ;
Almost on NATURE's common bounty fed,
Like the gay birds that sung them to repose,
Content, and careless of to-morrow's fare.

Her form was fresher than the morning-rose,

200

When the dew wets its leaves ; unstain'd, and pure,
As is the lily, or the mountain snow.

The modest virtues mingled in her eyes,

Still on the ground deject, and darting all

Their humid beams into the blooming flowers :

205

Or when the stories that her mother told,

Of what her faithless fortune flatter'd once,

Thrill'd in her thought, they, like the dewy star

Of evening, shone in tears. A native grace

Sat fair-proportion'd on her polish'd limbs,

210

Veil'd in a simple robe ; for loveliness

Needs not the foreign aid of ornament,

But is when unadorn'd adorn'd the most.

Thoughtless of beauty, she was Beauty's self,

Recluse among the woods ; if city-dames

215

Will deign their faith. And thus she went compell'd

By

By strong necessity, with as serene,
 And pleas'd a look as patience can put on,
 To glean PALÆMON's fields. The pride of swains
 PALÆMON was, the generous, and the rich,

Who led the rural life in all its joy,
 And elegance, such as ARCADIAN song
 Transmits from antient, incorrupted times ;
 When tyrant custom had not shackled man,
 And free to follow nature was the mode.

He then, his fancy with autumnal scenes
 Amusing, chanc'd beside his reaper-train
 To walk, when poor LAVINIA drew his eye ;
 Unconscious of her power, and turning quick
 With unaffected blushes from his gaze.

He saw her charming, but he saw not half
 The charms her downcast modesty conceal'd.
 That very moment love and chaste desire
 Sprung in his bosom, to himself unknown ;
 For still the world prevail'd, and its dread laugh,

Which scarce the firm philosopher can scorn,

220

225

230

235

Should

Should his heart own a gleaner in the field :
And thus in secret to his soul he sigh'd.

WHAT pity ! that so delicate a form,
By beauty kindled, and harmonious shap'd, 240
Where sense sincere, and goodness seem'd to dwell,
Should be devoted to the rude embrace
Of some indecent clown ? She looks, methinks,
Of old Acasto's line ; and to my mind
Recalls that patron of my happy life, 245
From whom my liberal fortune took its rise ;
Now to the dust gone down ; his houses, lands,
And once fair-spreading family dissolv'd.
I've heard that, in some waste obscure retreat,
Urg'd by remembrance sad, and decent pride, 250
Far from those scenes which knew their better days,
His aged widow and his daughter live ;
Whom yet my fruitless search could never find.
Romantic wish, would this the daughter were !

WHEN, strict enquiring, from herself he found

255

She was the same, the daughter of his friend,

The bountiful ACASTO; who can speak

The mingling passion that surpriz'd his heart,

And thro' his nerves in shivering transport ran?

Then blaz'd his smother'd flame, avow'd, and bold;

260

And as he run her, ardent, o'er and o'er,

Love, gratitude, and pity wept at once.

Confus'd, and frighten'd at his sudden tears,

Her rising beauties flush'd a higher bloom,

As thus PALMOM, passionate, and just,

265

Pour'd out the pious rapture of his soul.

AND art thou then ACASTO's dear remains?

She, whom my restlefs gratitude has sought

So long in vain? oh yes! the very same,

The soften'd image of my noble friend,

270

Alive, his every feature, every look,

More elegantly touch'd. Fairer than spring!

Thou sole surviving blossom from the root,

That nourish'd up my fortune, say, ah where,

In

In what unsmiling desert, hast thou drawn
The kindest aspect of delighted heaven?
Into such beauty spread? and blown so white?
Tho' poverty's cold wind, and crushing rain,
Beat keen, and heavy, on thy tender years.

O let me now, into a richer soil,
Transplant thee safe! where vernal suns, and showers,
Diffuse their warmest, largest influence;
And of my garden be the pride, and joy!

It ill befits thee, oh it ill befits
Acastro's daughter, his, whose open stores,
Tho' vast, were little to his ampler heart,
The father of a country, thus to pick
The very refuse of those harvest-fields,
His bounty taught to gain, and right enjoy.

Then throw that shameful pittance from thy hand,
But ill apply'd to such a rugged task;
With harvest shining all these fields are thine;
And, if my wishes may presume so far,
Their master too, who then indeed were blest,
To make the daughter of Acastro so.

275

280

285

290

295

HERE ceas'd the youth : yet still his speaking eye
 Express'd the sacred triumph of his soul,
 With conscious virtue, gratitude, and love,
 Above the vulgar joy divinely rais'd.

Nor waited he reply. Won by the charm

300

Of goodness irresistible, and all
 In sweet disorder lost, she blush'd consent.

The news immediate to her mother brought,
 While, pierc'd with anxious thought, she pin'd away

The lonely moments for LAVINIA's fate;

305

Amaz'd, and scarce believing what she heard,
 Joy seiz'd her wither'd veins, and one bright gleam
 Of setting life shone on her evening-hours :

Not less enraptur'd than the happy pair ;

Who flourish'd long in mutual bliss, and rear'd

310

A numerous offspring, lovely like themselves,
 And good, the grace of all the country round.

DEFATING of the labours of the year,

The sultry south collects a potent blast.

At first, the groves are scarcely seen to stir

315

Their

Their trembling tops; and a still murmur runs
Along the soft-inclining fields of corn.

But as th' aerial tempest fuller swells;
And in one mighty stream, invisible,
Immense, the whole excited atmosphere,
Impetuous rushes o'er the sounding world;
Strain'd to the root, the stooping forest pours
A rustling shower of yet untimely leaves.

High-beat, the circling mountains eddy in,
From the bare wild, the dissipated storm,
And send it in a torrent down the vale.
Expos'd, and naked, to its utmost rage,
Thro' all the sea of harvest rolling round,

The billowy plain boils wide; nor can evade,
Tho' plyant to the blast, its seizing force;
Or whirl'd in air, or into vacant chaff
Shook waste. And sometimes too a burst of rain,
Swept from the black horizon, broad, descends
In one continuous flood. Still over head
The glomerating tempest grows, and still
The deluge deepens; till the fields around

320

325

330

335

Ly

Ly sunk, and flattened, in the sordid wave.

Sudden, the ditches swell ; the meadows swim.

Red, from the hills, innumerable streams

Tumultuous roar ; and high above its banks

340

The river lift ; before whose weighty rush,

Herds, flocks, and harvests, cottages, and swains,

Roll mingled down ; all that the winds had spar'd,

In one wild moment ruin'd, the big hopes,

And well-earn'd treasures of the painful year.

345

Fled to some eminence, the husbandman,

Helpless beholds the miserable wreck

Driving along ; his drowning ox at once

Descending, with his labours scatter'd round,

He sees ; and instant o'er his shivering thought

350

Comes winter unprovided, and a train

Of clamant children dear. Ye masters, then

Be mindful of the rough laborious hand,

That sinks you soft in elegance, and ease ;

Be mindful of those limbs, in russet clad,

355

Whose toil to yours is warmth, and graceful pride ;

And O be mindful of that sparing board,

Which

Which covers your's with luxury profuse,
 Makes your glass sparkle, and your sense rejoice!
 Nor cruelly demand what the deep rains,
 And all-involving winds have swept away.

360

HERE the rude clamour of the sportsman's joy,
 The gun thick-thundering, and the winded horn,
 Would tempt the muse to sing the RURAL GAME.

How, in his mid-career, the spaniel struck,
 Stiff, by the tainted gale, with open nose,
 Out-stretch'd, and finely sensible, draws full,
 Fearful, and cautious, on the latent prey;
 As in the sun the circling covey bask
 Their varied plumes, watchful, and every way

365

Thro' the rough stubble turn'd the secret eye.

370

Caught in the meshy snare, in vain they beat
 Their useless wings, intangled more and more:
 Nor on the surges of the boundless air,
 Tho' borne triumphant, are they safe; the gun,
 Glanc'd just, and sudden, from the fowler's eye;

375

Certakes their sounding pinions; and again,

Immediate,

Immediate, brings them from the towering wing,
 Dead to the ground ; or drives them else dispers'd,
 Wounded, and wheeling various, down the wind.

380

THESE are not subjects for the peaceful muse,
 Nor will she stain her spotless theme with such ;
 Then most delighted, when she smiling sees
 The whole mix'd animal creation round
 Alive, and happy. Tis not joy to her,
 This falsely cheerful, barbarous game of death ;
 This rage of pleasure, which the restless youth
 Awakes, impatient, with the gleaming morn ;
 When beasts of prey retire, that all night long,
 Urg'd by necessity, had roam'd the dark ;
 As if their conscious ravage shun'd the light,
 Asham'd. Not so the steady tyrant man,
 Who with the thoughtless insolence of power
 Inflam'd, beyond the most infuriate rage
 Of the worst monster that e'er howl'd the waste,
 For sport alone, takes up the cruel tract,
 Amid the beamings of the gentle days.

385

390

395

Upbraid

Upbraid us not, ye wolves! ye tygers fell!
For hunger kindles you, and lawless want;
But lavish fed, in Nature's bounty roll'd,
To laugh at anguish, and rejoice in blood,
Is what your horrid bosoms never knew.

400

Poor is the triumph o'er the timid Hare! ✕
Shook from the corn, and now to some lone seat
Retir'd: the rushy fen; the ragged furz,
Stretch'd o'er the stony heath; the stubble chapt;
The thistly lawn; the thick, intangled broom;
Of the same friendly hue, the wither'd fern;
The fallow ground laid open to the sun,
Concoctive; and the nodding sandy bank,
Hung o'er the mazes of the mountain-brook.
Vain is her best precaution; tho' she sits
Conceal'd, with folded ears; unsleeping eyes,
By Nature rais'd to take th' horizon in;
And head couch'd close betwixt her hairy feet,
In act to spring away. The scented dew
Betrays her early labyrinth; and deep,

405

410

415

In scatter'd, sullen openings, far behind,
With every breeze she hears the coming storm.

But nearer, and more frequent, as it loads
The sighing gale, she springs amaz'd, and all
The savage soul of game is up at once :
The pack full-opening, various ; the shrill horn,
Resounded from the hills ; the neighing steed,
Wild for the chace ; and the loud hunter's shout ;
O'er a weak, harmless, flying creature, all
Mix'd in mad tumult, and discordant joy.

420

425

T H E Stag too, singled from the herd, where long
He reign'd the branching monarch of the shades,
Before the tempest drives. At first in speed,
He, sprightly, puts his faith ; and, fear-arrous'd,
Gives all his swift, aereal soul to flight.
Against the breeze he darts, that way the more
To leave the lessening, murderous cry behind.
Deception short ! tho' fleetier than the winds
Blown o'er the keen-air'd mountain by the north,
He bursts the thickets, glances thro' the glades,

430

435

And

And plunges deep into the wildest wood.

If slow, yet sure, adhesive to the tract

Hot-steaming, up behind him comes again

440

Th' inhuman rout, and from the shady depth

Expel him, circling thro' his every shift.

He sweeps the forest oft ; and sobbing sees

The glades, mild-opening to the golden day ;

Where, in kind contest, with his butting friends

445

He went to struggle, or his loves enjoy.

Oft in the full-descending flood he tries

To lose the scent, and lave his burning sides ;

Oft seeks the herd ; the watchful herd, alarm'd,

With quick consent, avoid th' infectious maze.

450

What shall he do ? His once so vivid nerves,

So full of buoyant soul, inspire no more

The fainting course ; but wrenching, breathless toil,

Sick, seizes on his heart : he stands at bay ;

And puts his last, weak refuge in despair.

455

The big round tears run down his dappled face ;

He groans in anguish ; while the growling pack,

Blood-happy, hang at his fair, jutting chest,
And mark his beauteous, chequer'd sides with gore.

Of this enough. But if the silvan youth,

460

Whose fervent blood boils into violence,

Must have the chace ; behold, despising flight,

The rous'd-up lyon, resolute, and slow,

Advancing full on the pretended spear,

And coward-band, that circling wheel aloof.

465

Slunk from the cavern, and the troubled wood,

See the grim wolf; on him his shaggy foe

Vindictive fix, for murder is his trade :

And, growling horrid, as the brindled boar

Grins near destruction, to the monster's heart

470

Let the dart lighten from the nervous arm.

THESE BRITAIN knows not ; give, ye BRITONS, then

Your sportive fury, pitiless, to pour

Loose on the fly destroyer of the flock.

Him, from his craggy winding haunts unearth'd,

475

Let all the thunder of the chace pursue.

Throw

Throw the broad ditch behind you ; o'er the hedge

High-bound, resistless ; nor the deep morass

Refuse, but thro' the shaking wilderness

Pick your nice way ; into the perilous flood

Bear fearless, of the raging instinct full ;

And as you ride the torrent, to the banks

Your triumph sound sonorous, running round,

From rock to rock, in circling echo tost ;

Then snatch the mountains by their woody tops ;

Rush down the dangerous steep ; and o'er the lawn,

In fancy swallowing up the space between,

Pour all your speed into the rapid game.

For happy he ! who tops the wheeling chace ;

Has every maze evolv'd, and every guile

Disclos'd ; who knows the merits of the pack ;

Who saw the villain seiz'd, and dying hard,

Without complaint, tho' by an hundred mouths

At once tore, mercyless. Thrice happy he !

At hour of dusk, while the retreating horn

Calls them to ghostly halls of grey renown,

With woodland honours grac'd ; the fox's fur,

480

485

490

495

Depending

Depending decent from the roof; and spread
 Round the drear walls, with antick figures fierce,
 The stag's large front: he then is loudest heard, 500
 When the night staggers with severer toils;
 And their repeated wonders shake the dome.

BUT first the fuel'd chimney blazes wide;
 The tankards foam; and the strong table groans
 Beneath the smoaking sirloin, stretch'd immense 505
 From side to side; on which, with fell intent,
 They deep incision make, and talk the while
 Of ENGLAND's glory, ne'er to be defac'd,
 While hence they borrow vigour: or amain
 Into the pasty plung'd, at intervals, 510
 If stomach keen can intervals allow,
 Relating how it ran, and how it fell.
 Then sated Hunger bids his brother Thirst
 Produce the mighty bowl; the mighty bowl,
 Swell'd high with fiery juice, steams liberal round 515
 A potent gale, reviving as the breath
 Of MAIA, to the love-sick Shepherdess,

On

On violets diffus'd, while soft she hears
 Her panting shepherd stealing to her arms.

Nor wanting is the brown october, drawn,
 Mature, and perfect, from his dark retreat
 Of thirty years; and now his honest front
 Flames in the light resplendent, not ashamed
 To vie it with the vineyard's best produce.

Perhaps a while, amusive, thoughtful Whisk
 Walks gentle round, beneath a cloud of smoak,
 Wreath'd, fragrant, from the pipe; or the quick dice,
 In thunder leaping from the box, awake
 The sounding gammon: while romp-loving miss
 Is haul'd about, in gallantry robust.

520

525

530

At last these puling idlenesses laid
 Aside, frequent, and full, the dry divan
 Close in firm circle; and set, ardent, in
 For serious drinking. Nor evasion fly,
 Nor sober shift is to the puking wretch
 Indulg'd askew; but earnest, brimming bowls
 Lave every soul, the table floating round,

535

And

And pavement, faithless to the fuddled foot.

Thus as they swim in mutual swill, the talk,

Vociferate at once by twenty tongues,

540

Reels fast from theme to theme ; from horses, hounds,

To church, or mistress, politicks, or ghost,

In endless mazes, intricate, perplext.

Mean-time, with sudden interruption, loud,

Th' impatient catch bursts from the joyous heart.

545

That moment touch'd is every kindred soul ;

And, opening in a full-mouth'd CRY of joy,

The laugh, the slap, the jocund curse goes round ;

While, from their slumbers shook, the kennel'd hounds

Mix in the musick of the day again.

550

As when the tempest, that has vex'd the deep

The dark night long, falls murmuring towards morn ;

So their mirth gradual sinks. Their feeble tongues,

Unable to take up the cumbrous word,

Ly quite dissolv'd. Before their maudlin eyes,

555

Seen dim, and blue, the double tapers dance,

Like the sun wading thro' the misty sky.

Then, sliding sweet, they drop. O'erturn'd above

Lies

Lies the wet, broken scene ; and stretch'd below,
 Each way, the drunken slaughter ; where astride 560
 The lubber Power himself triumphant sits,
 Slumbrous, inclining still from side to side,
 And steeps them, silent all, in sleep till morn.

But if the rougher sex by this red sport
 Are hurry'd wild, let not such horrid joy 565
 E'er stain the bosoms of the BRITISH FAIR.
 Far be the spirit of the chace from them !
 Uncomely courage, unbeseeming skill,
 To spring the fence, to rein the prancing steed,
 The cap, the whip, the masculine attire, 570
 In which they roughen to the sense, and all
 The winning softness of their sex is lost.
 Made up of blushes, tenderness, and fears,
 In them 'tis graceful to dissolve at woe ;
 With every motion, every word, to wave 575
 Quick o'er the kindling cheek the ready blush ;
 And from the smallest violence to shrink,
 Unequal, then the loveliest in their fears ;

X

And

And by this silent adulation, soft,
To their protection more engaging man.

580

O may their eyes no miserable sight,
Save weeping lovers, see! a nobler game,
Thro' love's enchanting wiles purfu'd, yet fled,
In chace ambiguous. May their tender limbs
Float in the loose simplicity of dress!

585

And fashion'd all to harmony, alone,
Know they to seize the captivated soul,
In rapture warbled from the radiant lip;
To teach the lute to languish; with smooth step,
Disclosing motion in its every charm,

590

To swim along, and swell the mazy dance;
To train the foliage o'er the snowy lawn;
To play the pencil, turn th' instructive page;
To give new flavour to the fruitful year,
And heighten Nature's dainties; in their race

595

To rear their graces into second life;
To give society its highest taste;
Well-order'd home man's best delight to make;
And by submissive wisdom, modest skill,

With

With every kinder, care-elusive art,
To raise the glory, animate the joys,
And sweeten all the toils of human life;
This be the female dignity, and praise.

YE swains, now hasten to the hazel-bank; 605

Where, down yon dale, the wildly-winding brook

Falls hoarse from steep to steep. In close array,

Fit for the thickets, and the tangling shrub,

YE virgins, come. For you their latest song

The woodlands raise; the cluster'd nut for you 610

The lover finds amid the secret shade;

Or, where they burnish on the topmost bough,

With active vigour crushes down the tree;

Or shakes them ripe from the resigning husk,

A glossy shower, and of an ardent brown, 615

As are the ringlets of MELINDA's hair:

MELINDA form'd with every grace compleat,

Yet these neglecting, above beauty wise,

And far transcending such a vulgar praise.

- HENCE from the busy, joy-resounding fields,
 In cheerful error, let us tread the maze 620
 Of AUTUMN, unconfin'd; and vital taste
 The breath of orchard big with bending fruit.
 Obedient to the breeze, and beating ray,
 From the deep-loaded bough a mellow shower,
 Incessant melts away. The juicy pear 625
 Lies, in a soft profusion, scatter'd round.
 A various sweetnes swells the gentle race,
 In species different, but in kind the same,
 By NATURE's all-refining hand prepar'd,
 Of temper'd sun, and water, earth, and air, 630
 In ever-changing composition mixt.
 So fares it with those wide-projected heaps
 Of apples, which the lusty-handed year,
 Innumerous, o'er the blushing orchard shakes.
 A various spirit, fresh, delicious, keen, 635
 Dwells in their gelid pores; and, active, points
 The piercing cyder for the thirsty tongue:
 Thy native theme, and boon inspirer too,
 PHILLIPS, facetious bard, the second thou

Who

Who nobly durst, in rhyme-unfetter'd verse,
With BRITISH freedom sing the BRITISH song ;
How, from SILURIAN vats, high-sparkling wines
Foam in transparent floods ; some strong, to cheer
The wintry revels of the labouring hind ;
And tasteful some, to cool the summer-hours.

640

645

IN this glad season, while his last, best beams
The sun sheds equal o'er the meeken'd day ;
Oh lose me in the green, majestic walks
Of, DODINGTON ! thy seat, serene, and plain ;
Where simple Nature reigns ; and every view,
Diffusive, spreads the pure DORSETIAN downs,
In boundless prospect, yonder shagg'd with wood ;
Here rich with harvest ; and there white with flocks.
Mean time the grandeur of thy lofty dome,
Far-splendid, seizes on the ravish'd eye.
New beauties rise with each revolving day ;
New columns swell ; and still the fresh spring finds
New plans to quicken, and new groves to green..
Full of thy genius all ! the muses' seat ;

650

655

Where

Where in the secret bower, and winding walk

660

They twine the bay for thee. Here oft alone,

Fir'd by the thirst of thy applause, I court

Th' inspiring breeze; and meditate the book

Of NATURE, ever-open; aiming thence,

Heart-taught like thine, to learn the moral song.

665

And, as I steal along, the sunny wall,

Where AUTUMN basks, with fruit empurpled deep,

My theme still urges in my vagrant thought;

Presents the downy peach; the purple plum,

With a fine blueish mist of animals

670

Clouded; the ruddy nectarine; and dark,

Beneath his ample leaf, the luscious fig.

The vine too here her curling tendrils shoots;

Hangs out her clusters, swelling to the south;

And scarcely wishes for a warmer sky.

675

TURN we a moment FANCY's rapid flight

To vigorous soils, and climes of fair extent;

Where, by the potent sun elated high,

The vineyard heaves resplendent on the day;

Spreads

- Spreads o'er the vale; or up the mountain climbs, 680
Profuse; and drinks amid the sunny rocks,
From cliff to cliff encreas'd, the heighten'd blaze.
Low bend the gravid boughs. The clusters clear,
Half thro' the foliage seen, or ardent flame,
Or shine transparent; while perfection breathes 685
White o'er the turgent film the living dew.
As thus they brighten with exalted juice,
Touch'd into flavour by the mingling ray;
The rural youth and virgins o'er the field,
Each fond for each to cull th' autumnal prime, 690
Exulting rove, and speak the vintage nigh.
Then comes the crushing swain; the country floats,
And foams unbounded with the mashy flood;
That by degrees fermented, and refin'd,
Round the rais'd nations pours the cup of joy: 695
The Claret smooth, deep as the lip we press,
In sparkling fancy, while we drain the bowl;
The mellow-tasted Burgundy; and quick,
As is the wit it gives, the bright Champaign. 700

Now by the cool, declining year condens'd,
 Descend the copious exhalations, check'd
 As up the middle sky unseen they stole,
 And roll the doubling fogs around the hill.

No more the mountain, horrid, vast, sublime,

Who pours a sweep of rivers from his sides;

705

And deep betwixt contending kingdoms lays

The rocky, long division; while aloft,

His piny top is, lessening, lost in air:

No more his thousand prospects fill the view

With great variety; but in a night

710

Of gathering vapour, from the baffled sense,

Sink dark, and total. Nor alone immerst;

The huge dusk, gradual, swallows up the plain.

Vanish the woods. The dim-seen river seems

Sullen, and slow, to rowl the misty wave.

715

Even in the height of noon opprest, the sun

Sheds weak, and blunt, his wide-refracted ray;

Whence glaring oft with many a broaden'd orb

He frights the nations. Indistinct on earth,

Seen thro' the turbid air, beyond the life,

720

Objects

Objects appear; and, wilder'd, o'er the waste
 The shepherd stalks gigantick. Till at last
 Wreath'd close around, in deeper circles still
 Successive floating, sits the general fog
 Unbounded o'er the world; and mingling thick,
 A formless, gray confusion covers all.

725

As when of old (so sung the H E B R E W bard)
 Light, uncollected, thro' the Chaos urg'd
 Its infant way; nor Order yet had drawn
 His endless train forth from the dubious gloom.

730

THESE roving mists, that constant now begin
 To smoak along the hilly country, these,
 With mighty rains, the skill'd in nature say,
 The mountain-cisterns fill, those grand reserves
 Of water, scoop'd among the hollow rocks;
 Whence gush the streams, the ceaseless fountains play,
 And their unfailing stores the rivers draw.
 But is this equal to the vast effect?

735

Is thus the VOLGA fill'd? the rapid RHINE?
 The broad EUPHRATES? all th' unnumber'd floods,

740

That large refresh the fair-divided earth ;
 And, in the rage of summer, never cease
 To send a thundering torrent to the main ?

W H A T tho' the sun draws from the steaming deep

More than the rivers pour ? How much again,

745

O'er the vext surge, in bitter-driving showers,

Frequent returns, let the wet sailor say :

And on the thirsty down, far from the burst

Of springs, how much, to their reviving fields,

And feeding flocks, let lonely shepherds sing.

750

But sure 'tis no weak, variable cause,

That keeps at once ten thousand thousand floods,

Wide-wandering o'er the world, so fresh, and clear,

For ever flowing, and for ever full.

And thus some sages, deep-exploring, teach :

755

That, where the hoarse, innumerable wave,

Eternal, lashes the resounding shore ;

Suck'd thro' the sandy S T R A T U M, every way,

The waters with the sandy S T R A T U M rise ;

Amid whose angles infinitely strain'd,

760

They

They leave each saline particle behind,
And clear, and sweeten, as they soak along.
Nor stops the restless fluid, mounting still,
Tho' here and there in lowly plains it springs,
But to the mountain courted by the sand, 765
That leads it darkling on in faithful maze,
Far from the parent-main, it boils again
Fresh into day; and all the glittering hill
Is bright with spouting rills. The vital stream
Hence, in its subterranean passage, gains, 770
From the wash'd mineral, that restoring power,
And salutary virtue, which anew
Strings every nerve, calls up the kindling soul
Into the healthful cheek, and joyous eye:
And whence, the royal maid, A M E L I A blooms 775
With new-flush'd graces; yet reserv'd to bles,
Beyond a crown, some happy prince; and shine,
In all her mother's matchless virtues dreft,
The C A R O L I N A of another land.

WHILE AUTUMN scatters his departing gleams, 780
 Warn'd of approaching winter, gather'd, play
 The swallow-people; and tost wide around,
 O'er the calm sky, in convolution swift,
 The feather'd eddy floats. Rejoycing once,
 Ere to their wintry slumbers they retire; 785
 In clusters clung, beneath the mouldering bank,
 And where the cavern sweats, as sages dream.
 Or rather into warmer climes convey'd,
 With other kindred birds of season, there
 They twitter chearful, till the vernant months 790
 Invite them welcome back: for, stronging, now
 Innumerable wings are in commotion all.

WHERE the RHINE loses his majestic force
 In BELGIAN plains, won from the raging deep
 By diligence amazing, and the strong, 795
 Unconquerable hand of LIBERTY,
 The stork-assembly meets; for many a day,
 Consulting deep, and various, ere they take
 Their plamy voyage thro' the liquid sky.

And

And now their rout design'd, their leaders chose,
 Their tribes adjusted, clean'd their vigorous wings ;
 And many a circle, many a short essay
 Wheal'd round and round, in congregation full,
 The figur'd flight ascends ; and, riding high
 Th' aerial billows, mixes with the clouds.

800

805

OR where the NORTHERN ocean, in vast whirls,
 Boils round the naked, melancholy isles
 Of farthest THULE, and th' ATLANTIC surge
 Pours in among the stormy HEBRIDES ;
 Who can recount what transmigrations there
 Are annual made ? what nations come and go ?
 And how the living clouds on clouds arise ?
 Infinite wings ! till all the plume-dark air,
 And white resounding shore are one wild cry.

810

HERE the plain, harmless native his small flock,
 And herd diminutive of many hues,
 Tends on the little island's verdant swell,
 The shepherd's sea-girt reign ; or, to the rocks

815

Dir-

Dire-clinging, gathers his ovarious food;
 Or sweeps the fishy shore; or treasures up
 The plumage, rising full, to form the bed
 Of luxury. And here a while the muse,
 High-hovering o'er the broad cerulean scene,
 Sees CALEDONIA, in romantic view:
 Her airy mountains, from the gelid main,
 Invested with a keen, diffusive sky,
 Breathing the soul acute; her forests huge,
 Incult, robust, and tall, by NATURE's hand
 Planted of old; her azure lakes between,
 Pour'd out extensive, and of watry wealth
 Full; winding deep, and green, her fertile vales;
 With many a cool, translucent, brimming flood
 Wash'd lovely, from the TWEED, pure parent-stream,
 To where the north-inflated tempest foams
 O'er ORCA, or BETUBIUM's highest peak. 835

Nurse of a people, in misfortune's school
 Train'd up to hardy deeds; soon visited
 By LEARNING, when before the GOTHIc rage
 She took her western flight. A generous race,

Of

Of unsubmitting spirit, wise, and brave,
Who still thro' bleeding ages struggled hard,
To hold a hapless, undiminish'd state ;
Too much in vain ! Hence of ignoble bounds
Impatient, and by tempting glory borne
O'er every land, for every land their life
Has flow'd profuse, their piercing genius plan'd,
And swell'd the pomp of peace their faithful toil.
As from their own clear north, in radiant streams,
Bright over EUROPE bursts the BOREAL MORN.

845

O H is there not some patriot, in whose power
That best, that godlike luxury is plac'd,
Of blessing thousands, thousands yet unborn,
Thro' late posterity ? some, large of soul !
To cheer dejected industry ? to give
A double harvest to the pining swain ?
And teach the labouring hand the sweets of toil ?
How, by the finest art, the native robe
To weave ; how, white as hyperborean snow,
To form the lucid lawn ; with venturous oar,

855

How

How to dash wide the billow; nor look on, 860
 Shamefully passive, while BATAVIAN fleets
 Defraud us of the glittering, finny swarms,
 That heave our friths, and croud upon our shores;
 How all-enlivening trade to rouse, and wing
 The prosperous sail, from every growing port, 865
 Unchalleng'd, round the sea-incircled globe;
 And thus united BRITAIN BRITAIN make
 Intire, th' imperial MISTRESS of the deep.

YEs, there are such. And full on thee, ARGYLE,
 Her hope, her stay, her darling, and her boast, 870
 From her first patriots, and her heroes sprung,
 Thy fond, imploring country turns her eye:
 In thee, with all a mother's triumph, sees
 Her every virtue, every grace combin'd,
 Her genius, wisdom, her politest turn, 875
 Her pride of honour, and her courage try'd,
 Calm, and intrepid, in the very throat
 Of sulphurous war, on TENIER's dreadful field,
 While thick around the deadly tempest flew.

And

And when the trumpet, kindling war no more, 880

Pours not the flaming squadrons o'er the field ;

But, fruitful of fair deeds, and mutual faith,

Kind peace unites the jarring world again ;

Let the deep olive thro' thy laurels twine.

For, powerful as thy sword, from thy rich tongue 885

Persuasion flows, and wins the high debate :

While mix'd in thee combine the charm of youth,

The force of manhood, and the depth of age.

Thee, F O R B E S , too, whom every worth attends,

As Truth sincere, as weeping Friendship kind, 890

Thee, truly generous, and in silence great,

Thy country feels thro' her reviving arts,

Plan'd by thy wisdom, by thy soul inform'd ;

And seldom has she felt the friend like thee.

B u t see the fading, many-colour'd woods, 895

Shade deepening over shade, the country round

Imbrown ; a crowded umbrage, dusk, and dun,

Of every hue, from wan, declining green

To sooty dark. These now the lonesome muse,
 Low-whispering, lead into their leaf-strown walks, 900
 And give the SEASON in its latest view.

MEAN-TIME, light-shadowing all, a sober calm
 Fleeces unbounded æther; whose least wave
 Stands tremulous, uncertain where to turn
 The gentle current: while illumin'd wide, 905
 The dewy-skirted clouds imbibe the sun,
 And thro' their uvid pores his temper'd force
 Shed o'er the peaceful world. Then is the time,
 For those whom Wisdom, and whom Nature charm,
 To steal themselves from the degenerate crowd, 910
 And soar above this little scene of things;
 To tread low-thoughted vice beneath their feet;
 To soothe the throbbing passions into peace;
 And woo lone QUIET in her silent walks.

Thus solitary, and in pensive guise, 915
 Oft let me wander o'er the russet mead,
 And thro' the sadden'd grove; where scarce is heard

One

One dying strain, to chear the woodman's toil.

Haply some widow'd songster pours his plaint

Far, in faint warblings, thro' the tawny copse.

920

While congregated thrushes, linnaets, larks,

And each wild throat, whose artless strains so late

Swell'd all the music of the swarming shades,

Robb'd of their tuneful souls, now shivering fit

On the dead tree, a dull, despondent flock !

925

With not a brightness waving o'er their plumes,

And nought save chattering discord in their note.

O let not, aim'd from some inhuman eye,

The gun the music of the coming year

Destroy ; and harmless, unsuspecting harm,

930

Lay the weak tribes, a miserable prey !

In mingled murder, fluttering on the ground.

THE pale, descending year, yet pleasing still,

A gentler mood inspires ; for now the leaf

Incessant rustles from the mournful grove,

935

Oft starting such as, studious, walk below,

And slowly circles thro' the waving air.

But should a quicker breeze amid the boughs
Sob, o'er the sky the leafy ruin streams;

Till choak'd, and matted with the dreary shower,
The forest-walks, at every rising gale,

Roll wide the wither'd waste, and whistle bleak.

Fled is the blasted verdure of the fields;

And, shrunk into their beds, the flowery race

Their sunny robes resign. Even what remain'd

Of bolder fruit falls from the naked tree;

And woods, fields, gardens, orchards, all around

The desolated prospect thrills the soul.

940

945

HE comes! he comes! in every breeze the POWER

OF PHILOSOPHIC MELANCHOLY comes!

950

His near approach the sudden-starting tear,

The glowing cheek, the mild dejected air,

The soften'd feature, and the beating heart,

Peirc'd deep with many a secret pang, declare.

O'er all the soul his sacred influence breathes;

955

In all the bosom triumphs, all the nerves;

Inflames imagination; thro' the sense

Infuses

Infuses every tenderness; and far
Beyond dim earth exalts the swelling thought.
Ten thousand thousand fleet ideas, such 960
As never mingled with the Vulgar's dream,
 Crowd fast into the mind's creative eye.
As fast the correspondent passions rise,
As varied, and as high : devotion rais'd
To rapture, and divine astonishment. 965
The love of Nature unconfin'd, and chief
Of humankind ; the large, ambitious wish,
To make them blest ; the sigh for suffering worth,
Lost in obscurity ; th' indignant scorn
Of mighty pride ; the fearless, great resolve ;
The wonder that the dying patriot draws, 970
Inspiring glory thro' remotest time ;
Th' arrousing pant for virtue, and for fame ;
The sympathies of love, and friendship dear ;
With all the social offspring of the heart. 975

Oh bear me then to vast, embowering shades!
To twilight groves, and visionary vales!

To weeping grottoes, and prophetic glooms!
 Where angel-forms athwart the solemn dusk,
 Tremendous sweep, or seem to sweep along; 980
 And voices more than human, thro' the void
 Deep-sounding, seize th' enthusiastic ear.

AND now the western sun withdraws the day;
 And humid evening, gliding o'er the sky,
 In her chill progress, to the ground condens'd 985
 Th' ascending vapour throws. Where waters ooze,
 Where marshes stagnate, and where rivers wind,
 Cluster the rolling fogs, and swim along
 The dusky-mantled lawn. Mean-while the moon,
 Full-orb'd, and breaking thro' the scatter'd clouds, 990
 Shews her broad visage in the crimson'd east.
 Turn'd to the sun direct, her spotted disk,
 (Where mountains rise, umbrageous dales descend,
 And oceans roll, as optic tube descries)
 A lesser earth, gives all his blaze again, 995
 Void of its flame, and sheds a softer day.
 Now thro' the passing cloud she seems to stoop,

Now

Now up the pure cerulean rides sublime.
Wide the pale deluge floats ; and streaming mild
O'er the sky'd mountain to the shadowy vale,
While rocks, and floods reflect the quivering gleam,
The whole air whitens with a boundless tide
Of silver radiance, trembling round the world.

1000.

BUT when, half blotted from the sky, her light,
Fainting, permits the starry fires to burn,
With keener lustre thro' the depth of heaven ;
Or quite extinct, her deaden'd orb appears,
And scarce appears, of sickly, beamless white :
Oft in this season, silent from the north
A blaze of meteors shoots, ensweeping first
The lower skies, then all at once converge
High to the crown of heaven, and all at once
Relapsing quick, as quickly reascend,
And mix, and thwart, extinguish, and renew,
All æther coursing in a maze of light..

1005.

1010.

1015.

From look to look, contagious thro' the crowd,
 The PANNIC runs, and into wonderous shapes
 Th' appearance throws: armies in meet array,
 Throng with aerial spears, and steeds of fire;
 Till the long lines of full-extended war 1020
 In bleeding fight commixt, the sanguine flood
 Rowls a broad slaughter o'er the plains of heaven.
 As thus they scan the visionary scene,
 On all sides swells the superstitious din,
 Incontinent; and busy frenzy talks 1025
 Of blood and battle; cities over-turn'd,
 And, late at night, in swallowing earthquake sunk,
 Or painted hideous with ascending flame;
 Of sallow famine, inundation, storm;
 Of pestilence, and every great distress; 1030
 Empires subvers'd, when ruling fate has struck
 Th' unalterable hour: even Nature's self
 Is deem'd to totter on the brink of time.
 Not so the man of philosophic eye,

And

And inspect sage; the waving brightness he
Curious surveys, inquisitive to know
The causes, and materials, yet unfix'd,
Of this appearance beautiful, and new. 1035

Now black, and deep, the night begins to fall,

A solid shade, immense. Sunk in the gloom 1040

Magnificent, and vast, are heaven and earth.

Order confounded lies; all beauty void;

Distinctive lost; and gay variety

One universal blot: such the fair power

Of Light, to kindle, and create the whole. 1045

Drear is the state of the benighted wretch,

Who then, bewilder'd, wanders thro' the dark,

Full of pale fancies, and chimeras huge;

Nor visited by one directive ray,

From cottage streaming, or from airy hall. 1050

Perhaps impatient as he stumbles on,

Struck from the root of slimy rushes, blue,

The wild-fire scatters round, or gather'd trails.

A length of flame deceitful o'er the moss;

Whither decoy'd by the fantastic blaze,1055
 Now sunk and now renew'd, he's quite absorpt,
 Rider and horse, into the miry gulph :
 While still, from day to day, his pining wife,
 And plaintive children his return await,
 In wild conjecture lost. At other times,1060
 Sent by the better Genius of the night,
 Innoxious, gleaming on the horse's mane,
 The meteor sits ; and shews the narrow path,
 That winding leads thro' pits of death, or else
 Instructs him how to take the dangerous ford.1065

THE lengthen'd night claps'd, the morning shines
 Serene, in all her dewy beauty bright,
 Unfolding fair the last AUTUMNAL day.
 And now the mounting sun dispels the fog ;
 The rigid hoar-frost melts before his beam,1070
 And hung on every spray, on every blade
 Of grass, the myriad dew-drops twinkle round.

- AH see where robb'd, and murder'd, in that pit,
 Lies the still heaving hive; at evening snatch'd,
 Beneath the cloud of guilt-concealing night, 1075
 And whelm'd o'er sulphur: while, undreaming ill,
 The happy people, in their waxen cells,
 Sat tending public cares, and planning schemes
 Of temperance, for winter poor; rejoic'd
 To mark, full-flowing round, their copious stores. 1080
- Sudden the dark, oppressive steam ascends;
 And, us'd to milder scents, the tender race,
 By thousands, tumbles from their honey'd domes,
 Convolv'd, and agonizing in the dust.
- And was it then for this ye roam'd the spring, 1085
 Intent from flower to flower? for this ye toil'd
 Ceaseless the burning summer-heats away?
 For this in autumn search'd the blooming waste,
 Nor lost one sunny gleam? for this sad fate?
- O man! tyrannic lord! how long, how long, 1090
 Shall prostrate nature groan beneath your rage,
 Awaiting renovation? When oblig'd,
 Must you destroy? Of their ambrosial food

Can you not borrow ? and in just return,
 Afford them shelter from the wintry winds ; 1095
 Or, as the sharp year pinches, with their own
 Again regale them on some smiling day ?
 Hard by, the stony bottom of their town
 Looks desolate, and wild ; with here and there
 A helpless number, who the ruin'd state 1100
 Survive, lamenting weak, cast out to death.
 Thus a proud city, populous, and rich,
 Full of the works of peace, and high in joy,
 At theatre, or feast, or sunk in sleep,
 (As late, 'PALERMO, was thy fate) is seiz'd 1105
 By some dread earthquake, and convulsive hurl'd,
 Sheer from the black foundation, stench-involv'd,
 Into a gulph of blue, sulphureous flame.

HENCE every harsher sight ! for now the day,
 O'er heaven and earth diffus'd, grows warm, and high, 1110
 Infinite splendor ! wide investing all.
 How still the breeze ! save what the filmy threads
 Of dew evaporate brushes from the plain.

How

How clear the cloudless sky ! how deeply ting'd
 With a peculiar blue ! th' æthereal arch

1115

How swell'd immense ! amid whose azure thron'd
 The radiant sun how gay ! how calm below.
 The gilded earth ! the harvest-treasures all
 Now gather'd in, beyond the rage of storms,

Sure to the swain ; the circling fence shut up ;

1120

And instant WINTER bid to do his worst.

While loose to festive joy, the country round
 Laughs with the loud sincerity of mirth,
 Care shook away. The toil-invigorate youth,
 Not needing the melodious impulse much,

1125

Leaps, wildly graceful, in the lively dance..

Her every charm abroad, the village-toast,
 Young, buxom, warm, in native beauty rich,
 Darts not-unmeaning looks ; and, where her eye

Points an approving smile, with double force,

1130

The cudgel rattles, and the struggle twists.

Age too shines out ; and, garrulous, recounts
 The feats of youth. Thus they rejoice ; nor think.

That

That, with to-morrow's sun, their annual toil
Begins again the never-ceasing round.

1135

O H knew he but his happiness, of men
The happiest he ! who far from public rage,
Deep in the vale, with a choice few retir'd,
Drinks the pure pleasures of the RURAL LIFE.

What tho' the dome be wanting, whose proud gate

1140

Each morning vomits out the sneaking crowd
Of flatterers false, and in their turn abus'd,
Vile intercourse ! What tho' the glittering robe,
Of every hue reflected light can give,

Or floating loose, or stiff with mazy gold,

1145

The pride, and gaze of fools ! oppress him not.
What tho' from utmost land, and sea, purvey'd,
For him each rarer, tributary life

Bleeds not, and his infatiate table heaps

With luxury, and death. What tho' his wine

1150

Flows not from brighter gems ; nor sunk in beds,
Oft of gay care, he tosses out the night ;
Or, thoughtless, sleeps at best in idle state.

What

What tho' depriv'd of these fantastic joys,
That still amuse the wanton, still deceive ; 1155
A face of pleasure, but a heart of pain ;
Their hollow moments undelighted all.
Sure peace is his ; a solid life, estrang'd
To disappointment, and fallacious hope ;
Rich in content, in Nature's bounty rich, 1160
In herbs, and fruits ; whatever greens the SPRING,
When heaven descends in showers ; or bends the bough,
When SUMMER reddens, and when AUTUMN beams ;
Or in the WINTRY glebe whatever lies *
Conceal'd, and fattens with the richest sap ; 1165
These are not wanting ; nor the milky drove,
Luxuriant, spread o'er all the lowing vale ;
Nor bleating mountains ; nor the chide of streams,
And hum of bees, inviting sleep sincere
Into the guiltless breast, beneath the shade, 1170
Or thrown at large amid the fragrant hay :
Nor aught beside of prospect, grove, or song,
Dim grottoes, gleaming lakes, and fountain clear.

Here

Here too lives simple truth ; plain innocence ;
 Unf sully'd beauty ; sound, unbroken youth,
 Patient of labour, with a little pleas'd ;
 Health ever-blooming ; unambitious toil ;
 Calm contemplation, and Poetic ease.

1175

LET others brave the flood, in quest of gain,
 And beat, for joyless months, the gloomy wave.

1180

Let such as deem it glory to destroy,
 Rush into blood ; the sack of cities seek ;
 Unpierc'd, exulting in the widow's wail,
 The virgin's shriek, and infant's trembling cry.

Let some far-distant from their native soil,

1185

Urg'd, or by want, or harden'd avarice,
 Find other lands beneath another sun.

Let This thro' cities work his ardent way,

By legal outrage, and establish'd guile,

The social sense extinct ; and That ferment

1190

Mad into tumult the seditious herd,

Or melt them down to slavery. Let These

Insnare the wretched in the toils of law,

Fomenting

- Fomenting discord, and perplexing right, 1195
An iron race ! and Those of fairer front,
But equal inhumanity, in courts,
And slippery pomp delight, in dark cabals ;
Wreathe the deep bow, diffuse the lying smile,
And tread the weary labyrinth of state. 1200
- While He, from all the stormy passions free,
That restless men involve, hears, and but hears,
At distance safe, the human tempest roar,
Wrapt close in conscious peace. The fall of kings,
The rage of nations, and the crush of states 1205
- Move not the man, who, from the world escap'd,
In still retreats, and flowery solitudes,
To NATURE's voice attends, from day to day,
And month to month, thro' the revolving YEAR ;
Admiring, sees her in her every shape ; 1210
- Feels all her fine emotions at his heart ;
Takes what she liberal gives, nor thinks of more.
He, when young SPRING protrudes the bursting gems,
Marks the first bud, and sucks the healthful gale
Into his freshen'd soul ; her genial hours 1215

He quite enjoys; and not a beauty blows,
And not an opening blossom breathes in vain.

In SUMMER he, beneath the living shade,
Such as from frigid TEMPE wont to fall,
Or HÆMUS cool, reads what the muse, of these 1220
Perhaps, has in immortal numbers sung;
Or what she dictates writes; and, oft an eye
Shot round, rejoices in the vigorous year.

When AUTUMN's yellow lustre gilds the world,
And tempts the sickled swain into the field, 1225
Seiz'd by the general joy, his heart distends
With gentle throws; and thro' the tepid gleams
Deep-musing, then the best exerts his song.

Even WINTER wild to him is full of bliss.

The mighty tempest, and the hoary waste, 1230
Abrupt, and deep, stretch'd o'er the bury'd earth,
Awake to solemn thought. At night the skies,
Disclos'd, and kindled, by refining frost,
Pour every lustre on th' astonish'd eye.

A friend, a book, the stealing hours secure, 1235
And mark them down for wisdom. With swift wing,
O'er

O'er land, and sea, imagination roams ;
Or truth, divinely breaking on his mind,
Elates his being, and unfolds his powers ;
Or in his breast heroic virtue burns:

1240

The touch of love, and kindred too he feels,
The modest eye, whose beams on his alone
Extatic shine ; the little, strong embrace
Of prattling children, twin'd around his neck,
And emulous to please him, calling forth
The fond parental soul. Nor purpose gay,
Amusement, dance, or song, he sternly scorns ;
For happiness, and true philosophy
Still are, and have been of the smiling kind.

1245

This is the life which those who fret in guilt,
And guilty cities, never knew ; the life,
Led by primæval ages, incorrupt,
When GOD himself, and ANGELS dwelt with men !

1250

OH NATURE ! all-sufficient ! over all !
Enrich me with the knowledge of thy works !
Snatch me to heaven ; thy rolling wonders there,

1255

World beyond world, in infinite extent,
 Profusely scatter'd o'er the void immense,
 Shew me; their motions, periods, and their laws,
 Give me to scan; thro' the disclosing deep 1260
 Light my blind way: the mineral STRATA there;
 Thrust, blooming, thence the vegetable world;
 O'er that the rising system, more complex,
 Of animals; and higher still, the mind,
 The varied scene of quick-compounded thought, 1265
 And where the mixing passions endless shift;
 These ever open to my ravish'd eye;
 A search, the flight of time can ne'er exhaust!
 But if to that unequal; if the blood,
 In sluggish streams about my heart, forbids 1270
 That best ambition; under closing shades,
 Inglorious, lay me by the lowly brook,
 And whisper to my dreams. From THEE begin,
 Dwell all on THEE, with THEE conclude my song;
 And let me never, never stray from THEE! 1275

W I N T E R.

Inscribed to the Right Honourable the

LORD WILMINGTON.

The ARGUMENT.

The subject proposed. Address to Lord WILMINGTON. First approach of WINTER. According to the natural order of the season, various storms described. Rain. Wind. Snow. The driving of the snows: a man perishing among them. A short digression into RUSSIA. The wolves in ITALY. A winter-evening described, as spent by philosophers; by the country, people; in the city. Frost. Its effects within the polar circle. A thaw. The whole concluding with philosophical reflections on a future state.



W. Kent. inv et det.

N. Tardieu scul.



W - I N T E R.


 EE WINTER comes, to rule the varied year,
 Sullen, and sad, with all his rising train,
 VAPOURS, and CLOUDS, and STORMS. Be these
 my theme,

These, that exalt the soul to solemn thought,
 And heavenly musing. Welcome, kindred glooms! 5
 Cogenial horrors, hail ! With frequent foot,
 Pleas'd have I, in my cheerful morn of life,
 When nurs'd by careless SOLITUDE I liv'd,
 And sung of Nature with unceasing joy,
 Pleas'd have I wander'd thro' your rough domain; 10
Trod

Trod the pure virgin-snows, my self as pure ;
 Heard the winds roar, and the big torrent burst ;
 Or seen the deep, fermenting tempest brew'd
 In the red evening-sky. Thus pass'd the time,
 Till thro' the lucid chambers of the south 15
 Look'd out the joyous SPRING, look'd out, and smil'd.

To thee, the patron of her first essay,
 The muse, O WILMINGTON ! renews her song.
 Since has she rounded the revolving YEAR :
 Skim'd the gay SPRING ; on eagle-pinions borne, 20
 Attempted thro' the SUMMER-blaze to rise ;
 Then swept o'er AUTUMN with the shadowy gale ;
 And now among the WINTRY clouds again,
 Roll'd in the doubling storm, she tries to soar ;
 To swell her note with all the rushing winds ; 25
 To suit her sounding cadence to the floods ;
 As is her theme, her numbers wildly great :
 Thrice happy ! could she fill thy judging ear
 With bold description, and with manly thought.
 For thee the Graces smooth ; thy softer thoughts 30

The

The Muses tune ; nor art thou skill'd alone
 In awful schemes, the management of states,
 And how to make a mighty people thrive :
 But equal goodness ; sound integrity ;
 A firm, unshaken, uncorrupted soul,
 Amid a sliding age ; and burning strong,
 Not vainly blazing, for thy country's weal,
 A steady spirit, regularly free ;
 These, each exalting each, the statesman light
 Into the patriot ; and, the publick hope
 And eye to thee converting, bid the muse
 Record what envy dares not flattery call.

35

40

WHEN SCORPIO gives to CAPRICORN the sway,

And fierce AQUARIUS fouls th' inverted year ;

Retiring to the verge of heaven, the sun

45

Scarce spreads o'er æther the dejected day.

Faint are his gleams ; and ineffectual shoo~~t~~

His struggling rays, in horizontal lines,

Thro' the thick air ; as at dull distance seen,

Weak, wan, and broad, he skirts the southern sky ;

50

Cc

And,

And, soon descending, to the long dark night,
Wide-shading all, the prostrate world resigns.

Nor is the night unwish'd ; while vital heat,
Light, life, and joy the dubious day forsake.

Mean-time, in sable cincture, shadows vast,

55

Deep-ting'd, and damp, and congregated clouds,
And all the vapoury turbulence of heaven

Involve the face of things. Thus WINTER falls,

A heavy gloom oppressive o'er the world,

Thro' nature shedding influence malign,

60

And rouzes all the seeds of dark disease.

The soul of man dies in him, loathing life,

And black with horrid views. The cattle droop

The conscious head ; and o'er the furrow'd land,

Red from the plow, the dun discolour'd flocks,

65

Untended spreading, crop the wholesome root.

Along the woods, along the moorish fens,

Sighs the sad genius of the coming storm ;

And up among the loose, disjointed cliffs,

And fractur'd mountains wild, the brawling brook,

70

And

And cave, presageful, send a hollow moan,
Resounding long in listening Fancy's ear.

THEN comes the Father of the tempest forth,
Striding the gloomy blast. First rains obscure
Drive thro' the mingling skies, with vapour vile; 75
Dash on the mountain's brow, and shake the woods,
That grumbling wave below. Th' unsightly plain
Lies a brown deluge; as the low-bent clouds
Pour flood on flood, yet unexhausted still
Combine, and deepening into night shut up 80
The day's fair face. The wanderers of heaven,
Each to his home, retire; save those that love
To take their pastime in the troubled air,
Or skimming flutter round the dimly pool.
The cattle from th' untafted fields return, 85
And ask, with meaning lowe, their wonted stalls,
Or ruminate in the contiguous shade.
Thither the household, feathery people crowd,
The crested cock, with all his female train,
Penfive, and wet. Mean-while the cottage-swain 90

Hangs o'er th' enlivening blaze, and taleful there
 Recounts his simple frolick : much he talks,
 And much he laughs, nor recks the storm that blows
 Without, and rattles on his humble roof.

WIDE o'er the brim, with many a torrent swell'd, 95
 And the mix'd ruins of its banks o'erspread,
 At last the rouz'd-up river pours along,
 Resistless, roaring ; dreadful down it comes
 From the chapt mountain, and the mossy wild,
 Tumbling thro' rocks abrupt, and sounding far: 100
 Then o'er the sanded valley floating spreads,
 Calm, sluggish, silent ; till again constrain'd,
 Betwixt two meeting hills it bursts a way,
 Where rocks, and woods o'erhang the turbid stream ;
 There gathering triple force, rapid, and deep, 105
 It boils, and wheels, and foams, and thunders thro'.

NATURE ! great parent ! whose continual hand
 Rolls round the seasons of the changeful year,
 How mighty, how majestic are thy works !

With

With what a pleasing dread they swell the soul ! 180

That sees astonish'd ! and astonish'd sings !

Ye too, ye winds ! that now begin to blow,

With boisterous sweep, I raise my voice to you.

Where are your stores, ye subtle beings ! say,

Where your aerial magazines reserv'd,

185

Against the day of tempest perilous ?

In what far-distant region of the sky,

Hush'd in dead silence, sleep you when 'tis calm ?

LATE in the lowring sky, red, fiery streaks

Begin to flush about ; the reeling clouds

190

Stagger with dizzy poise, as doubting yet

Which master to obey : while rising slow,

Blank, in the leaden-colour'd east, the moon

Wears a wan circle round her sully'd orb.

The stars obtuse emit a shivering ray ;

195

Snatch'd in short eddies plays the fluttering straw ;

Loud shrieks the soaring hern ; and, screaming wild,

The circling sea-fowl rise ; while from the shore,

Eat into caverns by the restless wave,

And

And forest-rustling mountain, comes a voice,
That solemn-sounding bids the world prepare.
Then issues forth the storm, with mad controul,
And the thin fabrick of the pillar'd air
O'eturns at once. Prone, on the passive main,
Descends th' ethereal force, and with strong gust
Turns from the bottom the discolour'd deep.
Thro' the loud night, that bids the waves arise,
Lasth into foam, the fierce, conflicting brine
Seems, as it sparkles, all around to burn.
Mean-time whole oceans, heaving to the clouds,
And in broad billows rolling gather'd seas,
Surge over surge, burst in a general roar,
And anchor'd navies from their stations drive,
Wild as the winds athwart the howling waste
Of mighty waters. Now the hilly wave
Straining they scale, and now impetuous shoot
Into the secret chambers of the deep,
The full-blown BALTICK thundering o'er their head.
Emerging thence again, before the breath
Of all-exerted heaven they wing their course,
And

130

135

140

145

150

And dart on distant coasts ; if some sharp rock,
 Or sand insidious break not their career,
 And in loose fragments fling them floating round.
 Nor raging here alone unrein'd at sea,
 To land the tempest bears ; and o'er the cliff, 155
 Where screams the sea-mew, foaming unconfid'd,
 Fierce swallows up the long-resounding shore.

THE mountain growls ; and all its sturdy sons
 Stoop to the bottom of the rocks they shade.
 Lone on its midnight side, and all aghast, 160
 The dark, way-faring stranger breathless toils,
 And, often falling, climbs against the blast.
 Low waves the rooted forest, vex'd, and sheds
 What of its tarnish'd honours yet remain ;
 Dash'd down, and scatter'd, by the tearing wind's 165
 Affiduous fury, its gigantic limbs.
 Thus struggling tho' the dissipate grove,
 The whirling tempest raves along the plain ;
 And on the cottage thatch, or lordly roof,
 Keen-fastening, shakes them to the solid base. 170

Sleep frightened flies; and round the rocking dome,
For entrance eager, howls the savage blast.

Then too, they say, thro' all the burthen'd air
Long groans are heard, shrill sounds, and distant sighs,
That, utter'd by the demon of the night,
Warn the devoted wretch of woe, and death.

175



HUGE UPROAR lords it wide. The clouds commixt
With stars swift-gliding sweep along the sky.
All nature reels. Till nature's KING, who oft
Amid tempestuous darkness dwells alone,
And on the wings of the careering wind
Walks dreadfully serene, commands a calm;
Then straight air, sea, and earth are hush'd at once.

180

As yet 'tis midnight waste. The weary clouds,
Slow-meeting, mingle into solid gloom.

185

Now, while the drowsy world lies lost in sleep,
Let me associate with the serious NIGHT,
And CONTEMPLATION her sedate compeer;

Let

Let me shake off th' intrusive cares of day,
And lay the meddling senses all aside.

290

AND now, ye lying Vanities of life !
Ye ever-tempting, ever-cheating train !
Where are you now ? and what is your amount ?
Vexation, disappointment, and remorse.
Sad, sickening thought ! And yet deluded man,
A scene of crude disjointed visions past,
And broken slumbers, rises still resolv'd,
With new-flush'd hopes to run the giddy round.

295

FATHER of light, and life ! thou Good supreme !
O teach me what is good ! teach me thy self !
Save me from folly, vanity, and vice,
From every low pursuit ! and feed my soul
With knowledge, conscious peace, and virtue pure,
Sacred, substantial, never-fading bliss !

300

THE keener Tempests come : and fuming dun

305

From all the livid east, or piercing north,

D d

Thick

Thick clouds ascend ; in whose capacious womb
 A vapoury deluge lies, to snow congeal'd.
 Heavy they roll their fleecy world along ;
 And the sky saddens with the gather'd storm.

310

Thro' the hush'd air the whitening shower descends,
 At first thin-wavering ; till at last the flakes
 Fall broad, and wide, and fast, dimming the day,
 With a continual flow. Sudden the fields

315

Put on their winter-robe, of purest white.
 'Tis brightness all ; save where the new snow melts,
 Along the mazy stream. The leafless woods.

320

325

In

In joyless fields, and thorny thickets, leaves
 His shivering fellows, and to trusted man
 His annual visit pays. The foodless wilds 330
 Pour forth their brown inhabitants. The hare,
 Tho' timorous of heart, and hard beset
 By death in various forms, dark snares, and dogs,
 And more unpitying men, the garden seeks,
 Urg'd on by fearless want. The bleating kind 335
 Eye the bleak heaven, and next the glistening earth,
 With looks of dumb despair; then sad, dispers'd,
 Dig for the wither'd herb thro' heaps of snow.

Now, shepherds, to your helpless charge be kind,
 Baffle the raging year, and fill their pens 340
 With food at will; lodge them below the storm,
 And watch them strict: for from the bellowing east,
 In this dire season, oft the whirlwind's wing
 Sweeps up the burthen of whole wintry plains
 In one wide waft, and o'er the hapless flocks, 345
 Hid in the hollow of two neighbouring hills;
 The billowy tempest whelms; till upwards urg'd,

The valley to a shining mountain swells,
Tipt with a wreath, high-curling in the sky.

As thus the snows arise; and foul, and fierce,

350

All winter drives along the darken'd air;

In his own loose-revolving fields, the swain

Disaster'd stands; sees other hills ascend

Of unknown joyless brow; and other scenes,

Of horrid prospect, shag the trackless plain:

355

Nor finds the river, nor the forest, hid

Beneath the white abrupt; but wanders on

From hill to dale, still more and more astray:

Impatient bouncing thro' the drifted heaps,

Stung with the thoughts of home; the thoughts of home 360

Rush on his nerves, and call their vigour forth

In many a vain effort. How sinks his soul!

What black despair, what horror fills his heart!

When for the dusky spot, that fancy feign'd

His tufted cottage rising thro' the snow,

365

He meets the roughness of the middle waste,

Far from the tract, and blest abode of man:

While

While round him night resistless closes fast,
And every tempest, howling o'er his head,
Renders the savage wilderness more wild.

370

Then throng the busy shapes into his mind,
Of cover'd pits, unfathomably deep,
A dire descent ! beyond the power of frost,
Of faithless bogs ; of precipices huge,
Smooth'd up with snow ; and, what is land unknown,

375

What water, of the still unfrozen eye,
In the loose marsh, or solitary lake,
Where the fresh fountain from the bottom boils.
These check his fearful steps ; and down he sinks
Beneath the shelter of the shapeless drift,
Thinking o'er all the bitterness of death,
Mixt with the tender anguish nature shoots
Thro' the wrung bosom of the dying man,
His wife, his children, and his friends unseen.

380

In vain for him th' officious wife prepares
The fire fair-blazing, and the vestment warm ;
In vain his little children, peeping out
Into the mingling rack, demand their fire,
With tears of artless innocence. Alas !

385

Nor

Nor wife, nor children more shall he behold,
 Nor friends, nor sacred home. On every nerve,
 The deadly winter seizes ; shuts up sense ;
 And, o'er his stronger vitals creeping cold,
 Lays him along the snows, a stiffen'd corse,
 Unstretch'd, and bleaching in the northern blast.

390

395

Ah little think the gay licentious proud,
 Whom pleasure, power, and affluence surround ;
 They, who their thoughtless hours in giddy mirth,
 And wanton, often cruel, riot waste ;
 Ah little think they, while they dance along,
 How many feel this very moment, death
 And all the sad variety of pain.
 How many sink in the devouring flood,
 Or more devouring flame. How many bleed,
 By shameful variance betwixt man and man.
 How many pine in want, and dungeon glooms ;
 Shut from the common air, and common use
 Of their own limbs. How many drink the cup
 Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread

400

405

Of

Of misery. Sore pierc'd by wintry winds,410
How many shrink into the sordid hut
Of chearles poverty. How many shake
With all the fiercer tortures of the mind,
Unbounded passion, madness, guilt, remorse;
Whence tumbled headlong from the height of life,415
They furnish matter for the tragic muse.
Even in the vale, where Wisdom loves to dwell,
With Friendship, Peace, and Contemplation join'd,
How many, rackt with honest passions, droop
In deep retir'd distress. How many stand420
Around the death-bed of their dearest friends,
Like wailing pensive ghosts awaiting theirs,
And point the parting pang. Thought but fond man
Of these, and all the thousand nameless ills,
That one incessant struggle render life,425
One scene of toil, of anguish, and of fate,
Vice in his high career would stand appall'd,
And heedless rambling impulse learn to think;
The conscious heart of Charity would warm,
And his wide wish Benevolence dilate;430
The

The social tear would rise, the social sigh ;
 And into clear perfection, gradual bliss,
 Refining still, the social passions work.

AND here can I forget the generous few,
 Who, touch'd with human woe, redressive sought
 Into the horrors of the gloomy jail ?
 Unpitied, and unheard, where Misery moans ;
 Where Sicknes pines ; where Thirst and Hunger burn,
 And poor Misfortune feels the lash of Vice.

While in the land of liberty, the land
 Whose every street, and public meeting glows
 With open freedom, little tyrants rag'd :
 Snatch'd the lean morsel from the starving mouth ;
 Tore from cold, wintry limbs the tatter'd robe ;
 Even robb'd them of the last of comforts, sleep ;
 The free-born BRITON to the dungeon chain'd,
 Or, as the lust of cruelty prevail'd,
 At pleasure mark'd him with inglorious stripes ;
 And crush'd out lives, by various nameless ways,
 That for their country would have toil'd, or bled.

435

440

445

450

Hail

Hail patriot-band! who, scorning secret scorn,
 When Justice, and when Mercy led the way,
 Drag'd the detected monsters into light,
 Wrench'd from their hand Oppression's iron rod,
 And bad the cruel feel the pains they gave.

455

Yet stop not here, let all the land rejoice,
 And make the blessing unconfin'd, as great.

Much still untouch'd remains ; in this rank age,
 Much is the patriot's weeding hand requir'd.

The toils of law, (what dark insidious men

460

Have cumbrous added to perplex the truth,
 And lengthen simple justice into trade)

Oh glorious were the day ! that saw these broke,
 And every man within the reach of right.

YET more outragious is the season still,

465

A deeper horror, in SIBERIAN wilds ;
 Where WINTER keeps his unrejoicing court,
 And in his airy hall the loud misrule
 Of driving tempest is for ever heard.

There thro' the ragged woods absorpt in snow,

470

Sole tenant of these shades, the shaggy bear,
 With dangling ice all horrid, stalks forlorn ;
 Slow-pac'd, and sower as the storms increase,
 He makes his bed beneath the drifted snow ;
 And, scorning the complainings of distress,

475

Hardens his heart against assailing want.

While tempted vigorous o'er the marble waste,
 On sleds reclin'd, the fury RUSSIAN fits ;
 And, by his rain-deer drawn, behind him throws
 A shining kingdom in a winter's day.

480

Or from the cloudy ALPS, and APPENINE,
 Capt with grey mists, and everlasting snows ;
 Where nature in stupendous ruin lies,
 And from the leaning rock, on either side,
 Gush out those streams that classic song renowns : 485
 Cruel as death, and hungry as the grave !
 Burning for blood ! bony, and ghaunt, and grim !
 Assembling wolves in torrent troops descend ;
 And, pouring o'er the country, bear along,
 Keen as the north-wind sweeps the glossy snow.

490

All

All is their prize. They fasten on the steed,
Press him to earth, and pierce his mighty heart.

Nor can the bull his awful front defend,
Or shake the murdering savages away.

Rapacious, at the mother's throat they fly, 495
And tear the screaming infant from her breast.
The god-like face of man avails him nought.
Even beauty, force divine ! at whose bright glance
The generous lyon stands in soften'd gaze,
Here bleeds, a hapless, undistinguish'd prey. 500

But if, appriz'd of the severe attack,
The country be shut up, lur'd by the scent,
On church-yards drear (inhuman to relate !)
The disappointed prowlers fall, and dig
The shrowded body from the tomb ; o'er which, 505
Mix'd with foul shades, and frightened ghosts, they howl.

Now, all amid the rigours of the year,
In the wild depth of WINTER, while without
The ceaseless winds blow ice, be my retreat,
Between the groaning forest and the shore, 510

Beat by a boundless multitude of waves,
 A rural, shelter'd, solitary, scene ;
 Where ruddy fire and beaming tapers join,
 To chase the clearless gloom. There let me sit,
 And hold high converse with the mighty dead ; 515
 Sages of antient time, as gods rever'd,
 As gods beneficent, who blest mankind
 With arts, and arms, and humaniz'd a world.
 Rous'd at th' inspiring thought, I throw aside
 The long-liv'd volume ; and, deep-musing, hail 520
 The sacred shades, that slowly-rising pass
 Before my wondering eyes. —First SOCRATES,
 Whose simple question to the folded heart
 Stole unperceiv'd, and from the maze of thought
 Evolv'd the secret truth —a god-like man ! 525
 SOLON the next, who built his common-weal
 On equity's wide base. LYCORGUS then,
 Severely good ; and him of rugged ROME,
 NUMA, who soften'd her rapacious sons.
 CIMON sweet-soul'd, and ARISTIDES just ; 530

With

With that attemper'd * Hero, mild, and firm,
Who wept the brother while the tyrant bled.

Unconquer'd CATO, virtuous in extreme.

SCIPIO, the humane warrior, gently brave ;

Who soon the race of spotless glory ran, 535

And, warm in youth, to the poetic shade,

With friendship, and philosophy, retir'd.

And, equal to the best, the † THEBAN twain,

Who, single rais'd their country into fame.

Thousands behind, the boast of GREECE and ROME, 540

Whom Virtue owns, the tribute of a verse

Demand ; but who can count the stars of heaven ?

Who sing their influence on this lower world ?

But see who yonder comes ! in sober state,

Fair, mild, and strong, as is a vernal sun : 545

'Tis PHOEBUS self, or else the MANTUAN swain !

Great HOMER too appears, of daring wing,

Parent of song ! and equal by his side,

* TIMOLEON.

† PELOPIDAS, and EPAMINONDAS.

The BRITISH muse; join'd hand in hand they walk,
Darkling, full up the middle steep to fame.

550

Nor absent are those tuneful shades, I ween,
Taught by the Graces, whose enchanting touch
Shakes every passion from the various string;
Nor those, who solemnize the moral scene.

FIRST of your kind! Society divine!

555

Still visit thus my nights, for you reserv'd,
And mount my soaring soul to deeds like yours.
Silence, thou lonely power! the door be thine;
See on the hallow'd hour that none intrude,
Save LYCIDAS the friend, with sense refin'd,
Learning digested well, exalted faith,
Unstudy'd wit, and humour ever gay.
Or from the muses' hill will POPE descend,
To raise the sacred hour, to make it smile,
And with the social spirit warm the heart:
For tho' not sweeter his own HOMER sings,
Yet is his life the more endearing song.

560

565

THUS

Our hearts would burn within us, would inhale
 That portion of divinity, that ray
 Of purest heaven, which lights the glorious flame
 Of patriots, and of heroes. But if doom'd,
 In powerless humble fortune, to repress
 These ardent risings of the kindling soul ;
 Then, even superior to ambition, we
 Would learn the private virtues ; how to glide
 Thro' shades and plains, along the smoothest stream
 Of rural life : or snatch'd away by hope,
 Thro' the dim spaces of futurity,
 With earnest eye anticipate those scenes
 Of happiness, and wonder ; where the mind,
 In endless growth and infinite ascent,
 Rises from state to state, and world to world.
 And when with these the serious soul is foil'd,
 We, shifting for relief, would play the shapes
 Of frolic fancy ; and incessant form
 Unnumber'd pictures, fleeting o'er the brain,
 Yet rapid still renew'd, and pour'd immense
 Into the mind, unbounded without space :

590

595

600

605

610

The

+

The great, the new, the beautiful ; or mix'd,
 Burlesque, and odd, the risible and gay ;
 Whence vivid Wit, and Humour, droll of face,
 Call laughter forth, deep-shaking every nerve.

MEAN-TIME the village rouzes up the fire ;

615

While well attested, and as well believ'd,
 Heard solemn, goes the goblin-story round ;
 Till superstitious horror creeps o'er all.

OR, frequent in the sounding hall, they wake

The rural gambol. Rustic mirth goes round :

620

The simple joke that takes the shepherd's heart,
 Easily pleas'd ; the long loud laugh, sincere ;
 The kiss, snatch'd hasty from the sidelong maid,
 On purpose guardless, or pretending sleep ;
 The leap, the flap, the haul ; and, shook to notes
 Of native music, the respondent dance.
 Thus jocund fleets with them the winter-night.

625

THE city swarms intense. The publick haunt,
 Full of each theme, and warm with mixt discourse,
 Hums indistinct. The sons of riot flow

630

Down the loose stream of false enchanted joy,
 To swift destruction. On the rankled soul
 The gaming fury falls ; and in one gulph
 Of total ruin, honour, virtue, peace,
 Friends, families, and fortune headlong sink.

635

Rises the dance along the lighted dome,
 Mix'd, and evolv'd, a thousand sprightly ways.
 The glittering court effuses every pomp ;
 The circle deepens, rain'd from radiant eyes,
 A soft effulgence o'er the palace waves :

640

While, thick as insects in the summer-shine,
 The fop, light-fluttering, spreads his mealy wings.

DREAD o'er the scene the ghost of HAMLET stalks ;
 OTHELLO rages ; poor MONIMIA mourns ;
 And BELVIDERA pours her soul in love.

645

Affenting terror shakes ; the silent tear
 Seals o'er the cheek : or else the comic Muse

Holds

Holds to the world the picture of itself,
And raises fly the fair impartial laugh.

CLEAR frost succeeds ; and thro' the blue serene,

650

For sight too fine, th' ethereal nitre flies :

Killing infectious damps, and the spent air

Storing afresh with elemental life.

Close crowds the shining atmosphere ; and binds

Our strengthen'd bodies in its cold embrace,

655

Constringent ; feeds, and animates our blood ;

Refines our spirits, thro' the new-strung nerves,

In swifter sallies darting to the brain ;

Where sits the soul, intense, collected, cool,

Bright as the skies, and as the season keen.

660

All nature feels the renovating force

Of WINTER, only to the thoughtless eye

In desolation seen. The vacant glebe

Draws in abundant vegetable soul,

And gathers vigour for the coming year.

665

A stronger glow sits on the lively cheek

Of ruddy fire : and luculent along

The purer rivers flow ; their sullen deeps,
 Amazing, open to the shepherd's gaze,
 And murmur hoarser at the fixing frost.

670

WHAT art thou, Frost ? and whence are thy keen stores
 Deriv'd, thou secret all-invading Power,
 Whom even th' illusive fluid cannot fly ?

Is not thy potent energy, unseen,
 Myriads of little salts, or hook'd, or shap'd

675

Like double wedges, and diffus'd immense
 Thro' water, earth and ether ? Hence at eve,
 Steam'd eager from the red horizon round,
 With the still rage of WINTER deep suffus'd,

An icy gale, oft shifting, o'er the pool

680

Breathes a blue film, and in its mid career

Arrests the bickering stream. The loosen'd ice,

Let down the flood, and half-dissolv'd by day,

Rustles no more ; but to the sedgy bank

Fast grows, or gathers round the pointed stone,

685

A crystal pavement, by the breath of heaven

Cemented firm ; till seiz'd from shore to shore,

The

The whole detruded river growls below.

Loud rings the frozen earth, and hard reflects
A double noise; while, at his evening-watch,

690

The village-dog deters the nightly thief;

The heifer lows; the distant water-fall
Swell's in the breeze; and, with the hasty tread

Of traveller, the many sounding plain

Shakes from afar. The full ethereal round,

695

Infinite worlds disclosing to the view,

Shines out intensely keen; and, all one cope

Of starry glitter, glows from pole to pole.

From pole to pole the rigid influence falls,

Thro' the still night, incessant, heavy, strong,

700

And seizes nature fast. It freezes on;

Till morn, late rising o'er the drooping world,

Lifts her pale eye unjoyous. Then appears

The various labour of the silent night:

Prone from the dripping eave, and dumb cascade,

705

Whose idle torrents only seem to roar,

The pendant icicle; the frost-work fair,

Where transient hues, and fancy'd figures rise;

The

The liquid kingdom all to solid turn'd ;
 Wide-spouted o'er the brow, the frozen brook,
 A livid tract, cold-gleaming on the morn ;
 The forest bent beneath the plumy wave ;
 And by the frost refin'd the whiter snow,
 Incrusted hard, and sounding to the tread
 Of early shepherd, as he pensive seeks
 His pining flock, or from the mountain-top,
 Pleas'd with the slippery surface, swift descends.

710

715

ON blithesome frolics bent, the youthful swains,
 While every work of man is laid at rest,
 Fond o'er the river rush, and shuddering view
 The doubtful deeps below. Or where the lake
 And long canal the cerule plain extend,
 The city pours her thousands, swarming all,
 From every quarter : and, with him who滑ides ;
 Or skating sweeps, swift as the winds, along,
 In circling poise ; or else disorder'd falls,
 His feet, illuded, sprawling to the sky,

720

725

While

While the laugh rages round ; from end to end,
Encreasing still, resounds the crowded scene.

PURE, quick, and sportful, is the wholesome day ; 730
But soon claps'd. The horizontal sun,
Broad o'er the south, hangs at his utmost noon ;
And, ineffectual, strikes the gelid cliff.

The mountain still his azure gloss maintains,
Nor feels the feeble touch. Perhaps the vale 735
Relents a while to the reflected ray ;
Or from the forest falls the cluster'd snow,
Myriads of gems, that, by the breeze diffus'd,
Gay-twinkle thro' the gleam. Heard thick around,
Thunders the sport of those, who, with the gun, 740
And dog impatient bounding at the shot,
Worse than the season, desolate the fields ;
And, adding to the ruins of the year,
Distress the footed, or the feather'd game.

BUT what is this ? these infant tempests what ? 745
The mockery of WINTER : Should our eye

Astonish'd

Astonish'd shoot into the frozen zone ;
 Where more than half the joyless year is night ;
 And, failing gradual, life at last goes out.

There undissolving, from the first of time,
 Snows swell on snows amazing to the sky ;
 And icy mountains there, on mountains pil'd,
 Seem to the shivering sailor from afar,
 Shapeless, and white, an atmosphere of clouds.

Projected huge, and horrid, o'er the main,
 Alps frown on Alps ; or rushing hideous down,
 As if old Chaos was again return'd,
 Shake the firm pole, and make an ocean boil.

Whence heap'd abrupt along the howling shore,
 And into various shapes (as fancy leans)
 Work'd by the wave, the crystal pillars heave,
 Swells the blue portico, the gothic dome
 Shoots fretted up ; and birds, and beasts, and men,
 Rise into mimic life, and sink by turns.

The restless deep itself cannot resist
 The binding fury ; but, in all its rage
 Of tempest taken by the boundless frost,

750

755

760

765

'Tis

Is many a fathom to the bottom chain'd,
 And bid to roar no more: a bleak expanse,
 Shag'd o'er with wavy rocks, chearless, and void 770
 Of every life, that from the dreary months
 Flies conscious southward. Miserable they !
 Who, here entangled in the gathering ice,
 Take their last look of the descending sun ;
 While, full of death, and fierce with tenfold frost, 775
 The long long night, incumbent o'er their head,
 Falls horrible. Such was the * BRITON's fate,
 As with first prow, (What have not BRITONS dar'd !)
 He for the passage sought, attempted since
 So much in vain, and seeming to be shut 780
 By jealous nature with eternal bars.
 In these fell regions, in A R Z I N A caught,
 And to the stony deep his idle ship
 Immediate seal'd, he with his hapless crew,
 Each full exerted at his several task, 785
 Froze into statues; to the cordage glued
 The sailor, and the pilot to the helm.

* SIR HUGH WILLOUGHBY, sent out by QUEEN ELIZABETH to discover the
North-east Passage.

HARD by these shores, the last of mankind live ;
 And, scarce enliven'd by the distant sun,
 (That rears and ripens man, as well as plants) 790
 Here Human Nature just begins to dawn.
 Deep from the piercing season sunk in caves,
 Here by dull fires, and with unjoyous cheer,
 They wear the tedious gloom. Immers'd in furs,
 Ly the gross race. Nor sprightly jest, nor song, 795
 Nor tenderness they know ; nor ought of life,
 Beyond the kindred bears that stalk without.
 Till long-expected morning looks at length
 Faint on their fields (where WINTER reigns alone).
 And calls the quiver'd savage to the chace. 800

MUTTERING, the winds at eve, with hoarser voice
 Blow blustering from the south. The frost subdu'd,
 Gradual, resolves into a trickling thaw.
 Spotted the mountains shine ; loose sleet descends,
 And floods the country round. The rivers swell, 805
 Impatient for the day. Broke from the hills,
 O'er rocks and woods, in broad brown cataracts,

Tempest the loosen'd brine ; while thro' the gloom,
 Far, from the bleak inhospitable shore,
 Loading the winds, is heard the hungry howl
 Of famish'd monsters, there awaiting wrecks.

Yet PROVIDENCE, that ever-waking eye,
 Looks down with pity on the fruitless toil
 Of mortals lost to hope, and lights them safe,
 Thro' all this dreary labyrinth of fate. 835

'Tis done ! — dread WINTER has subdu'd the year,
 And reigns tremendous o'er the desart plains.
 How dead the vegetable kingdom lies !
 How dumb the tuneful ! Horror wide extends
 His solitary empire. Here, fond man !
 Behold thy pictur'd life ; pass some few years,
 Thy flowering SPRING, thy SUMMER's ardent strength,
 Thy sober AUTUMN fading into age,
 And pale concluding WINTER comes at last, 840
 And shuts the scene. Ah ! whither now are fled,
 Those dreams of greatness ? those unsolid hopes
 Of happiness ? those longings after fame ?

Those

Those restless cares? those busy bustling days?

Those gay-spent, festive nights? those veering thoughts, 850

Lost between good and ill, that shar'd thy life?

All now are vanish'd! VIRTUE sole survives,

Immortal, mankind's never-failing friend,

His guide to happiness on high.—And see!

'Tis come, the glorious morn! the second birth

855

Of heaven, and earth! Awakening nature hears

The new-creating word, and starts to life,

In every heighten'd form, from pain and death

For ever free. The great eternal scheme,

Involving all, and in a perfect whole

860

Uniting, as the prospect wider spreads,

To reason's eye refin'd clears up apace.

Ye vainly wise! ye blind presuming! now,

Confounded in the dust, adore that POWER,

And WISDOM oft arraign'd: see now the cause,

865

Why unassuming Worth in secret liv'd,

And dy'd, neglected: why the good man's share

In life was gall, and bitterness of soul:

Why the lone widow, and her orphans pin'd,

In starving solitude ; while Luxury,
In palaces, lay prompting his low thought,
To form unreal wants : why heaven-born Truth,
And Moderation fair, wore the red marks
Of Superstition's scourge : why licens'd Pain,
That cruel spoiler, that embosom'd foe,
Imbitter'd all our bliss. Ye good distrest !
Ye noble few ! who here unbending stand
Beneath life's pressure, yet a little while,
And what you reckon evil is no more ;
The storms of WINTRY TIME will quickly pass,
And one unbounded SPRING encircle all.





A

H Y M N.

 THESE, as they change, ALMIGHTY FATHER ! these,
Are but the varied GOD. The rolling YEAR.
Is full of thee. Forth in the pleasing SPRING

Thy *Beauty* walks, thy *Tenderness* and *Love*.

Wide-flush the fields ; the softening air is balm ;

Echo the mountains round ; the forests live ;

And every sense, and every heart is joy.

Then comes thy *Glory* in the SUMMER-months,

With light, and heat, severe. Prone, then thy sun

Shoots full perfection thro' the swelling year.

And oft thy voice in awful thunder speaks ;

5

to

And

And oft at dawn, deep noon, or falling eve,
 By brooks and groves, in hollow-whispering gales.
 A yellow-floating pomp, thy *Bounty* shines
 In AUTUMN unconfin'd. Thrown from thy lap, 15
 Profuse o'er nature, falls the lucid shower
 Of beamy fruits; and, in a radiant stream,
 Into the stores of steril WINTER pours.
 In WINTER *dreadful* THOU! with clouds and storms
 Around THEE thrown, tempest o'er tempest roll'd, 20
 Horrible blackness! On the whirlwind's wing,
 Riding sublime, THOU bid'st the world be low,
 And humblest nature with thy northen blast.

MYS TER I OUS round! what skill, what force divine,
 Deep-felt, in these appear! A simple train, 25
 Yet so harmonious mix'd, so fitly join'd,
 One following one in such enchanting sort,
 Shade, unperceiv'd, so softening into shade,
 And all so forming such a perfect whole,
 That, as they still succeed, they ravish still. 30

But

His praise, ye brooks, attune, ye trembling rills ;
 And let me catch it as I muse along.

Ye headlong torrents, rapid, and profound ;
 Ye softer floods, that lead the humid maze
 Along the vale ; and thou, majestic main,
 A secret world of wonders in thyself,
 Sound his tremendous praise ; whose greater voice

Or bids you roar, or bids your roarings fall.

Roll up your incense, herbs, and fruits, and flowers,
 In mingled clouds to HIM ; whose sun elates,
 Whose hand perfumes you, and whose pencil paints.

Ye forests, bend ; ye harvests, wave to HIM :
 Breathe your still song into the reaper's heart,
 Homeward, rejoicing with the joyous moon.

Ye that keep watch in heaven, as earth asleep
 Unconscious lies, effuse your mildest beams,
 Ye Constellations, while your angels strike,
 Amid the spangled sky, the silver lyre.

Great source of day ! best image here below
 Of thy creator, ever darting wide,
 From world to world, the vital ocean round,

55

60

65

70

On

+

On nature write with every beam his praise.
 The thunder rolls : be hush'd the prostrate world ;
 While cloud to cloud returns the dreadful hymn.
 Bleat out afresh, ye hills ; ye mossy rocks,
 Retain the sound : the broad responsive low,
 Ye vallies, raise ; for the GREAT SHEPHERD reigns ;
 And yet again the golden age returns.
 Wildest of creatures, be not silent here ;
 But, hymning horrid, let the desert roar. 80
 Ye woodlands all, awake : a general song
 Burst from the groves ; and when the restless day,
 Expiring, lays the warbling world asleep,
 Sweetest of birds ! sweet philomela, charm
 The listening shades ; and thro' the midnight hour,
 Trilling, prolong the wildly-luscious note ;
 That night, as well as day, may vouch his praise.
 Ye chief, for whom the whole creation smiles ;
 At once the head, the heart, and mouth of all,
 Crown the great HYMN ! In swarming cities vast,
 Concourse of men, to the deep organ join
 The long-resounding voice, oft-breaking clear,

At solemn pauses, thro' the swelling base;
 And, as each mingling frame encreases each,
 In one united ardor rise to heaven.

95

Or if you rather chuse the rural shade,
 To find a fane in every sacred grove ;
 There let the shepherd's flute, the virgin's chaunt,
 The prompting seraph, and the poet's lyre,
 Still sing the GOD OF SEASONS, as they roll.

100

For me, when I forget the darling theme,
 Whether the BLOSSOM BLOWS, the SUMMER-RAY,
 Ruffles the plain, delicious AUTUMN gleams ;
 Or WINTER rises in the reddening east ;
 Be my tongue mute, may fancy paint no more,

105

And, dead to joy, forget my heart to beat.

SHOULD fate command me to the farthest verge
 Of the green earth, to hostile barbarous climes,
 Rivers unknown to song; where first the sun
 Gilds INDIAN mountains, or his setting beam
 Flames on th' ATLANTIC isles; 'tis nought to me;
 Since GOD is ever present, ever felt,

In
+

In the void waste, as in the city full ;
Rolls the same kindred SEASONS round the world,
In all apparent, wise, and good in all ;
Since HE sustains, and animates the whole ;
From seeming evil still educes good,
And better thence again, and better still,
In infinite progression.—But I lose
Myself in HIM, in light ineffable !
Come then, expressive Silence, muse his praise.

115

120

THE END.

A

A
P O E M

Sacred to the MEMORY of

Sir Isaac Newton.

Inscrib'd to the RIGHT HONOURABLE

Sir Robert Walpole.





W. Kent, inv et del.

P. Fourdrinier sculp.



A

P O E M

Sacred to the MEMORY of

Sir Isaac NEWTON.



HALL the great soul of NEWTON quit this earth,

To mingle with his stars; and every Muse,

Astonish'd into silence, shun the weight

Of honours due to his illustrious name?

But what can man? — Even now the sons of light,

5

In strains high-warbled to seraphic lyre,

Hail his arrival on the coast of bliss.

Yet am not I deterr'd, tho' high the theme,

And sung to harps of angels, for with you,

I i

Ethereal

Whether she wanes into a scanty orb,
 Or, waxing broad, with her pale shadowy light,
 In a soft deluge overflows the sky.

Her every motion clear-discriminating, He 50
 Adjusted to the mutual M A I N, and taught
 Why now the mighty mass of water swells
 Resistless, heaving on the broken rocks,
 And the full river turning; till again
 The tide revertive, unattracted, leaves 55
 A yellow waste of idle sands behind.

THEN breaking hence, he took his ardent flight
 Thro' the blue Infinite; and every S T A R,
 Which the clear concave of a winter's night
 Pours on the eye, or astronomic tube, 60
 Far-stretching, snatches from the dark abyss,
 Or such as farther in successive skies
 To fancy shine alone, at his approach
 Blaz'd into S U N S, the living centre each
 Of an harmonious system: all combin'd, 65

And

nd rul'd unerring by that single Power,
Which draws the stone projected to the ground.

O UNPROFUSE magnificence divine!

O WISDOM truly perfect! thus to call
From a few causes such a scheme of things, 70
Effects so various, beautiful, and great,
An universe compleat! And O belov'd
Of Heaven! whose well-purg'd penetrative eye,
The mystic veil transpiercing, inly scan'd
The rising, moving, wide-establish'd frame. 75

HE, first of men, with awful wing pursu'd
The COMET thro' the long Eliptic curve,
As round innumerable worlds he wound his way;
Till, to the forehead of our evening sky
Return'd, the blazing wonder glares anew, 80.
And o'er the trembling nations shakes dismay.

THE Heavens are all his own ; from the wild rule
Of whirling VORTICES, and circling SPHERES,

To

246 A POEM to the Memory

To their first great simplicity restor'd.

The schools astonish'd stood ; but found it vain

85

To keep at odds with demonstration strong,

And, unawaken'd, dream beneath the blaze

Of truth. At once their pleasing visions fled,

With the gay shadows of the morning mix'd,

When NEWTON rose, our philosophic sun.

90

TH' AERIAL flow of SOUND was known to him,

From whence it first in wavy circles breaks,

Till the touch'd organ takes the meaning in.

Nor could the darting BEAM, of speed immense,

Escape his swift pursuit, and measuring eye.

95

Even LIGHT ITSELF, which every thing displays,

Shone undiscover'd, till his brighter mind

Untwisted all the shining robe of day ;

And, from the whitening undistinguish'd blaze,

Collecting every ray into his kind,

100

To the charm'd eye educ'd the gorgeous train

Of PARENT-COLOURS. First the flaming RED

Sprung vivid forth ; the tawny ORANGE next ;

And

+

And next delicious YELLOW ; by whose side
Fell the kind beams of all-refreshing GREEN.

105

Then the pure BLUE, that swells autumnal skies,
Ethereal play'd ; and then, of sadder hue,
Emerg'd the deepen'd INDICO, as when
The heavy-skirted evening droops with frost.

While the last gleamings of refracted light
Dy'd in the fainting VIOLET away.

110

These, when the clouds distil the rosy shower,
Shine out distinct adown the watry bow ;
While o'er our heads the dewy vision bends
Delightful, melting on the fields beneath.

115

Myriads of mingling dies from these result,
And myriads still remain—Infinite source
Of Beauty, ever-flushing, ever-new !

DID ever poet image ought so fair,
Dreaming in whispering groves, by the hoarse brook !
Or prophet, to whose rapture heaven descends !
Even now the setting sun and shifting clouds,

120
Seen,

246 A POEM to the Memory

To their first great simplicity restor'd ~~and~~ heights, declare
The schools astonish'd stood ; but f ~~ELACTIVE~~ LAW.

To keep at odds with demonstrati
And, unawaken'd, dream benea ~~the~~, all bearing down 125
Of truth. At once their pleasi ~~re~~
With the gay shadows of the ~~the~~ ~~shiny~~ shine,
When NEWTON rose, our p ~~er~~ force (involv'd
 anding, rais'd

TH' AERIAL flow of ~~the~~ to guide 130
From whence it first in ~~the~~ ~~a~~arksome way.

Till the touch'd organ
Nor could the darting ~~up~~ his labours ? who
Escape his swift pur ~~se~~? when but a few
Even LIGHTS : ~~the~~ ~~can~~ stretch their minds
Shone undiscover'd ~~the~~ Fancy's lighter thought, 135
Untwisted all t ~~he~~ then grasp the mighty theme ?

And, from the
Collecting e ~~and~~ thence that his DEVOTION swell'd
To the ch ~~the~~ ~~as~~ knowledge ! For could he,
Of PAR ~~the~~ ~~the~~ mental eye diffusive saw
Sprung ~~the~~ ~~the~~ University of things, 140

In
+

Seen, GREENWICH, from thy lovely heights, declare
How just, how beauteous the REFRACTIVE LAW.

THE noiseless TIDE of TIME, all bearing down

125

To vast Eternity's unbounded sea,

Where the green islands of the happy shine,

He stem'd alone; and to the source (involv'd

Deep in primæval gloom) ascending, rais'd

His lights at equal distances, to guide

130

Historian, wilder'd on his darksome way.

BUT who can number up his labours? who

His high discoveries sing? when but a few

Of the deep-studying race can stretch their minds

To what he knew: in Fancy's lighter thought,

135

How shall the Muse then grasp the mighty theme?

WHAT wonder thence that his DEVOTION swell'd

Responsive to his knowledge! For could he,

Whose piercing mental eye diffusive saw

The finish'd University of things,

140

In

+

In all its order, magnitude, and parts,
Forbear incessant to adore that POWER
Who fills, sustains, and actuates the whole.

Say, ye who best can tell, ye happy few,
Who saw him in the softest lights of life, 145
All unwithheld, indulging to his friends
The vast unborrow'd treasures of his mind,
Oh speak the wondrous man ! how mild, how calm,
How greatly humble, how divinely good;
How firm establish'd on eternal truth ; 150
Fervent in doing well, with every nerve
Still pressing on, forgetful of the past,
And panting for perfection : far above
Those little cares, and visionary joys, 155
That so perplex the fond impassion'd heart
Of ever-cheated, ever-trusting man.
This, CONDUITT, from thy rural hours we hope ;
As thro' the pleasing shade, where Nature pours
Her every sweet, in studious ease you walk ; 160

250 *A Poem to the Memory*

The social passions smiling at thy heart,
That glows with all the recollected sage.

AND you, ye hopeless gloomy-minded tribe,
You who, unconscious of those nobler flights
That reach impatient at immortal life,
Against the prime indearing privilege 165
Of Being dare contend, say, can a soul
Of such extensive, deep, tremendous powers,
Enlarging still, be but a finer breath
Of spirits dancing thro' their tubes awhile,
And then for ever lost in vacant air? 170

BUT hark! methinks I hear a warning voice,
Solemn as when some awful change is come,
Sound thro' the world — “ ‘Tis done! — *The measure's full;*
“ *And I resign my charge.* — Ye mouldering stones,
That build the towering pyramid, the proud 175
Triumphal arch, the monument effac'd
By ruthless ruin, and whate'er supports
The worship'd name of hoar antiquity,

Down

Down to the dust! what Grandeur can ye boast
While NEWTON lifts his column to the skies, 180
Beyond the waste of time.—Let no weak drop
Be shed for him. The Virgin in her bloom
Cut off, the joyous youth, and darling child,
These are the tombs that claim the tender tear,
And Elegiac song. But NEWTON calls 185
For other notes of gratulation high,
That now he wanders thro' those endless worlds
He here so well descried, and wondering talks,
And hymns their Author with his glad compeers.

O BRITAIN's boast! whether with angels thou 190
Sittest in dread discourse, or fellow-blest,
Who joy to see the honour of their kind;
Or whether, mounted on cherubic wing,
Thy swift career is with the whirling orbs,
Comparing things with things, in rapture lost, 195
And grateful adoration, for that light
So plenteous ray'd into thy mind below,
From LIGHT HIMSELF; Oh look with pity down

On

252 A POEM to the Memory of, &c.

On humankind, a frail erroneous race!

Exalt the spirit of a downward world!

200

O'er thy dejected country chief preside,

And be her GENIUS call'd ! her studies raise,

Correct her manners, and inspire her youth.

For, tho' deprav'd and sunk, she brought thee forth,

And glories in thy name ; she points thee out

205

To all her sons, and bids them eye thy star :

While in expectance of the second life,

When Time shall be no more, thy sacred dust

Sleeps with her kings, and dignifies the scene.

THE END.



B R I T A N N I A.

A

P O E M.

—*Et tantas audetis tollere Moles?*
Quos *Ego* — sed motos *præstat componere Fluctus.*
Post mibi non simili Pœna commissa luetis.
Maturate Fugam, Regique hæc dicite vestro:
Non illi Imperium Pelagi, Sævumque Tridentem,
Sed mibi sorte datum. — VIRG.

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B R I T A N N I A.

5

To generous *Britons* never known before ?
And fail'd my Fleets for this ; on *Indian* tides
To float, unactive, with the veering winds ? 35
The mockery of war ! while hot disease,
And sloth distemper'd, swept off burning crowds,
For action ardent ; and amid the deep,
Inglorious, sunk them in a watry grave.
There now they lie beneath the rowling flood, 40
Far from their friends, and country unaveng'd ;
And back the weeping war-ship comes again,
Dispirited, and thin ; her sons alham'd
Thus idly to review their native shore ;
With not one glory sparkling in their eye, 45
One triumph on their tongue. A passenger,
The violated Merchant comes along ;
That far-sought wealth, for which the noxious gale
He drew, and sweat beneath Equator suns,
By lawless force detain'd ; a force that soon 50
Would melt away, and every spoil resign,
Were once the *British* lyon heard to roar.
Whence is it that the proud *Iberian* thus,
In their own well-asserted element,
Dares rouze to wrath the Masters of the Main ? 55
Who told him, that the big incumbent war

Would

Nor ceas'd her sobs to murmur to the main.

10

Peace discontented nigh, departing, stretch'd
Her dove-like wings. And War, tho' greatly rous'd,
Yet mourn'd his fetter'd hands. While thus the Queen
Of nations spoke ; and what she said the Muse
Recorded, faithful, in unbidden verse.

15

Even not yon sail, that, from the sky-mixt wave,
Dawns on the sight, and wafts the *Royal Youth*,
A freight of future glory to my shore ;
Even not the flattering view of golden days,
And rising periods yet of bright renown,
Beneath the *Parents*, and their endless line
Thro' late revolving time, can sooth my rage ;
While, unchaftis'd, the insulting *Spaniard* dares
Infest the trading flood, full of vain War
Despise my Navies, and my Merchants seize ;
As, trusting to false peace, they fearless roam
The world of waters wild, made, by the toil,
And liberal blood of glorious ages, mine :
Nor bursts my sleeping thunder on their head.
Whence this unwonted patience ? this weak doubt ?
This tame beseeching of rejected peace ?
This meek forbearance ? this unnative fear,

20

25

30

To

Would not, ere this, have roll'd his trembling ports
 In smoaky ruin? and his guilty stores,
 Won by the ravage of a butcher'd world,
 Yet unatton'd, sunk in the swallowing deep,
 Or led the glittering prize into the *Thames*? 60

There was a time (Oh let my languid sons
 Resume their spirit at the rouzing thought!)
 When all the pride of *Spain*, in one dread fleet,
 Swell'd o'er the lab'ring surge; like a whole heaven
 Of clouds, wide-roll'd before the boundless breeze.
 Gaily the splendid Armament along
 Exultant plough'd, reflecting a red gleam,
 As sunk the sun, o'er all the flaming vast;
 Tall, gorgeous, and elate; drunk with the dream
 Of easy conquest; while their bloated war,
 Stretch'd out from sky to sky, the gather'd force
 Of ages held in its capacious womb.

But soon, regardless of the cumbrous pomp,
 My dauntless *Britons* came, a gloomy few,
 With tempest black, the goodly scene deform'd,
 And laid their glory waste. The bolts of fate
 Resistless thunder'd thro' their yielding fides;
 Fierce o'er their beauty blaz'd the lurid flame;

And

65

70

75

Shrink from that empire o'er the conquer'd seas,
For which their wisdom plan'd, their councils glow'd,
And their veins bled thro' many a toiling age.

105

Oh first of human blessings! and supreme!
Fair *Peace*! how lovely, how delightful thou!
By whose wide tie, the kindred sons of men,
Like brothers live, in amity combin'd,
And unsuspicuous faith; while honest toil
Gives every joy, and to those joys a right,
Which idle, barbarous Rapine but usurps.
Pure is thy reign; when, unaccus'd by blood,
Nought, save the sweetnes of indulgent showers,
Trickling distils into the vernal glebe;
Instead of mangled carcases, sad-seen,
When the blythe sheaves lie scatter'd o'er the field;
When only shining shares, the crooked knife,
And hooks imprint the vegetable wound;
When the land blushes with the rose alone,
The falling fruitage, and the bleeding vine.
Oh, *Peace*! thou source, and soul of social life;
Beneath whose calm, inspiring influence,
Science his views enlarges, Art refines,
And swelling Commerce opens all her ports;

110

115

120

125

Blest

Blest be the Man divine, who gives us Thee!
Who bids the trumpet hush his horrid clang,
Nor blow the giddy nations into rage;
Who sheaths the murderous blade; the deadly gun
Into the well-pil'd armoury returns;
And, every vigour from the work of death,
To grateful industry converting, makes
The country flourish, and the city smile.

Unviolated, him the virgin sings;
And him the smiling mother to her train.
Of him the shepherd, in the peaceful dale,
Chaunts; and, the treasures of his labour sure,
The husbandman of him, as at the plough,
Or team, he toils. With him the sailor foots,
Beneath the trembling moon, the midnight wave;
And the full city, warm, from street to street,
And shop to shop, responsive, rings of him.
Nor joys one land alone; his praise extends
Far as the sun rolls the diffusive day;
Far as the breeze can bear the gifts of peace,
Till all the happy nations catch the song.

135

140

145

150

What would not *Peace!* the Patriot bear for thee?
What painful patience? What incessant care?

B

What

10 *B R I T A N N I A.*

What mixt anxiety? What sleepless toil?
Even from the rash protected what reproach? 155

For he thy value knows; thy friendship he
To human nature: but the better thou,
The richer of delight, sometimes the more
Inevitable *War*; when ruffian force
Awakes the fury of an injur'd state. 160

Then the good easy man, whom reason rules;
Who, while unhurt, knew nor offence, nor harm,
Rouz'd by bold insult, and injurious rage,.
With sharp, and sudden check, th' astonish'd sons
Of violence confounds; firm as his cause, 165

His bolder heart; in awful justice clad;
His eyes effulging a peculiar fire:
And, as he charges thro' the prostrate war,
His keen arm teaches faithless men, no more
To dare the sacred vengeance of the just. 170

And what, my thoughtless sons, should fire you more,
Than when your well-earn'd empire of the deep
The least beginning injury receives?
What better cause can call your lightning forth?
Your thunder wake? Your dearest life demand? 175

What better cause, than when your country sees

The

B R I T A N N I A.

ii

The fly destruction at her vitals aim'd?
For oh it much imports you, 'tis your all,
To keep your Trade intire, intire the force,
And honour of your Fleets; o'er that to watch,

180

Even with a hand severe, and jealous eye.

In intercourse be gentle, generous, just,
By wisdom polish'd, and of manners fair;
But on the sea be terrible, untam'd,
Unconquerable still: let none escape,

185

Who shall but aim to touch your glory there.

Is there the man, into the lyon's den
Who dares intrude, to snatch his young away?
And is a *Briton* seiz'd? and seiz'd beneath

The slumbring terrors of a *British* Fleet?

190

Then ardent rise! Oh great in vengeance rise!

O'erturn the proud, teach rapine to restore:
And as you ride sublimely round the world,
Make every vessel stoop, make every state
At once their welfare and their duty know.

195

This is your glory; this your wisdom; this
The native power for which you were design'd
By fate, when fate design'd the firmest state,
That e'er was seated on the subject sea;

A state, alone, where *Liberty* should live,

200

In these late times, this evening of mankind;
 When *Athens*, *Rome*, and *Carthage* are no more,
 The world almost in slavish sloth dissolv'd;

For this, these rocks around your coast were thrown ;

For this, your oaks, peculiar harden'd, shoot

205

Strong into sturdy growth; for this, your hearts

Swell with a full'ne courage, growing still

As danger grows; and strength, and toil for this

Are liberal pour'd o'er all the fervent land.

Then cherish this, this unexpensive power,

210

Undangerous to the publick, ever prompt,

By lavish Nature thrust into your hand :

And, unencumber'd with the bulk immense

Of conquest, whence huge empires rose, and fell,

Self-crush'd, extend your reign from shore to shore,

215

Where'er the wind your high behests can blow,

And fix it deep on this eternal base.

For should the sliding fabrick once give way,

Soon slacken'd quite, and past recovery broke,

It gathers ruin as it rolls along,

220

Steep-rushing down to that devouring gulph,

Where many a mighty empire buried lies.

And should the big redundant flood of Trade,

In which ten thousand thousand Labours join

Their

Their several currents, till the boundless tide
 Rolls in a radiant deluge o'er the land,
 Should this bright stream, the least infected, point
 Its course another way, o'er other lands
 The various treasure would resistless pour,
 Ne'er to be won again; its antient tract
 Left a vile channel, desolate, and dead,
 With all around a miserable waste.

225

Not *Egypt*, were, her better heaven, the *Nile*
 Turn'd in the pride of flow; when o'er his rocks,
 And roaring cataracts, beyond the reach
 Of dizzy vision pil'd, in one wide flash
 An *Ethiopian* deluge foams amain;
 (Whence wond'ring fable trac'd him from the sky)
 Even not that prime of earth, where harvests crowd
 On untill'd harvests, all the teeming year,
 If of the fat o'erflowing culture robb'd,
 Were then a more uncomfortable wild,
 Steril, and void; than of her trade depriv'd,
Britons, your boasted isle: her princes funk;
 Her high-built honour moulder'd to the dust;
 Unnerv'd her force; her spirit vanish'd quite;
 With rapid wing her riches fled away;
 Her unfrequented ports alone the sign

230

235

240

245

Of what she was ; her Merchants scatter'd wide ;
 Her hollow shops shut up ; and in her streets,
 Her fields, woods, markets, villages, and roads,
 The cheerful voice of labour heard no more.

250

Oh let not then waste Luxury impair
 That manly soul of toil, which strings your nerves,
 And your own proper Happiness creates !

255

Oh let not the soft, penetrating plague
 Creep on the free-born mind ! and working there,
 With the sharp tooth of many a new-form'd want,
 Endless, and idle all, eat out the heart

Of *Liberty* ; the high conception blast ;

260

The noble sentiment, th' impatient scorn
 Of base subjection, and the swelling wish
 For general good, crazing from the mind :
 While nought save narrow Selfishness succeeds,

And low design, the sneaking passions all

265

Let loose, and reigning in the rankled breast.

Induc'd at last, by scarce-perceiv'd degrees,

Sapping the very frame of government,

And life, a total dissolution comes ;

Sloth, ignorance, dejection, flattery, fear,

Oppression raging o'er the waste he makes ;

270

The

The human being almost quite extinct;
And the whole state in broad Corruption sinks.
Oh shun that gulph: that gaping ruin shun!
And countless ages roll it far away

From you, ye heaven-belov'd! may *Liberty*,
The light of life! the sun of human kind!
Whence Heroes, Bards, and Patriots borrow flame,
Even where the keen depressive North descends,
Still spread, exalt, and actuate your powers!
While slavish Southern climates beam in vain.

And may a publick spirit from the *Throne*,
Where every Virtue sits, go copious forth
Live o'er the land! the finer Arts inspire;
Make thoughtful Science raise his pensive head,
Blow the fresh Bay, bid Industry rejoice,
And the rough Sons of lowest Labour smile:
As when, profuse of Spring, the loosen'd West
Lifts up the pining year, and balmy breathes
Youth, life, and love, and beauty o'er the world.

275

280

285

290

But haste we from these melancholly shores,
Nor to deaf winds, and waves, our fruitless plaint
Pour weak; the country claims our active aid;
That let us roam; and where we find a spark

Of

Of publick virtue, blow it into flame.

295

And now my sons, the sons of freedom ! meet

In awful senate ; thither let us fly ;

Burn in the Patriot's thought, flow from his tongue

In fearless truth ; myself, transform'd, preside,

And shed the spirit of *Britannia* round.

300

This said ; her fleeting form, and airy train,

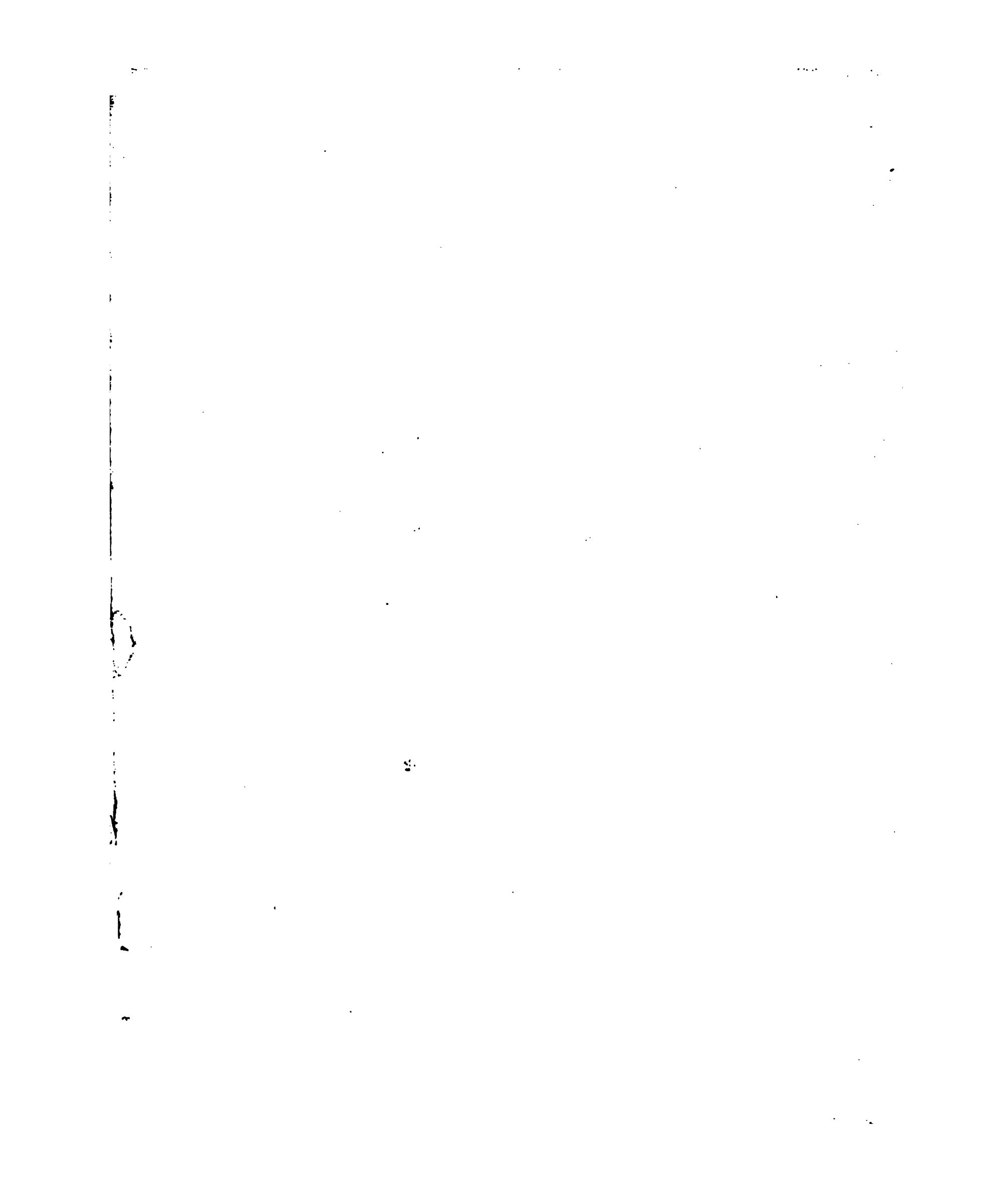
Sunk in the gale ; and nought but ragged rocks

Rush'd on the broken eye ; and nought was heard

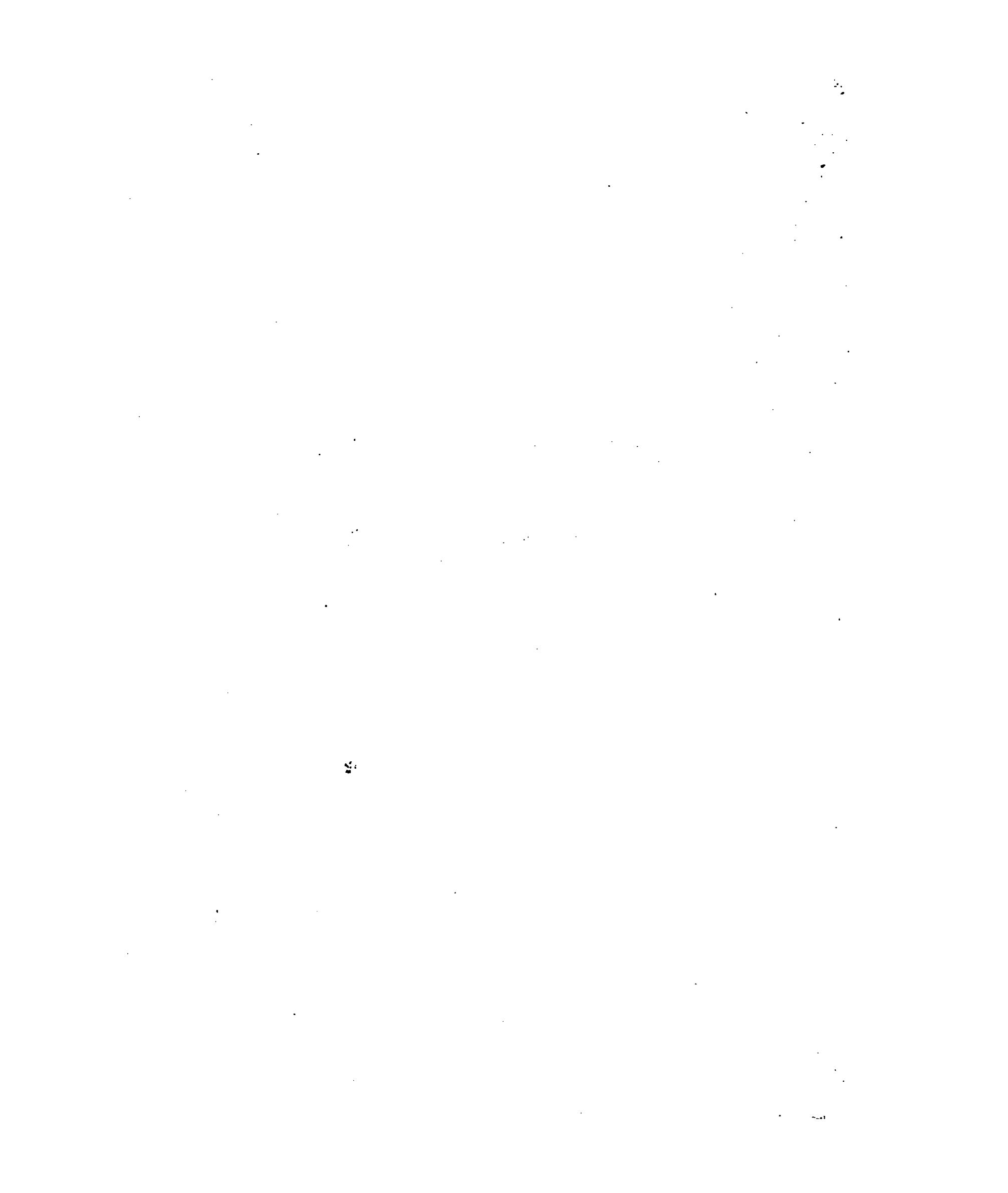
But the rough cadence of the dashing wave.

The END.









clcf

